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REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

In a few days the year 1856 will be, as Young says, "with the years before the Flood." Once more we will have closed a twelvemonth; and it behoves us, in nautical phrase, to examine our "dead reckoning," and see what "way" H.M.S. England has made during the period.

The year began, and it closes, in great political uncertainty. We were all wondering, a year since, whether we should have a peace; we are now anxiously watching the Continent, in consequence of the Prussian-Swiss question, and are full of doubt about the future of the Persian war. It is plain, accordingly, that we are not yet clear of grave foreign difficulties. Of the pacific results of the second Conference we may, perhaps, feel tolerably secure; but the new Eastern disturbance is part of the peculiar nature of our relations to Russia, complicated and made worse by our diplomacy. We were warned long ago, by students of the Eastern question, that we were mismanaging matters in Persia. It would be absurd to distinguish 1856 as the year of peace, while its treaty of peace is still unexecuted—its Russian quarrel working in new regions and new shapes—and while its winter finds vast military preparations going on in some of the most civilised parts of Europe. Nevertheless, it is the Treaty of March 30th which gives the year its character, and by that event it will be hereafter remembered in history.

At home, we have found the war which then closed—it may be only nominally—we have found the war, we say, the most general topic of the year, and its effects, one way or another, everywhere working. If our session of Parliament produced little, why, it was the war which prevented our legislators from "settling down" to business. If taxes were retained, or bread dear,—still it was the war. Did a public dinner occur anywhere—it was a warrior who was being feasted, and the topics were Alma and the "trenches." Everywhere the subject turned up, and with a thousand discussions attached to it—proving how real, genuine, and intense was the zeal which the public had felt for that great struggle.

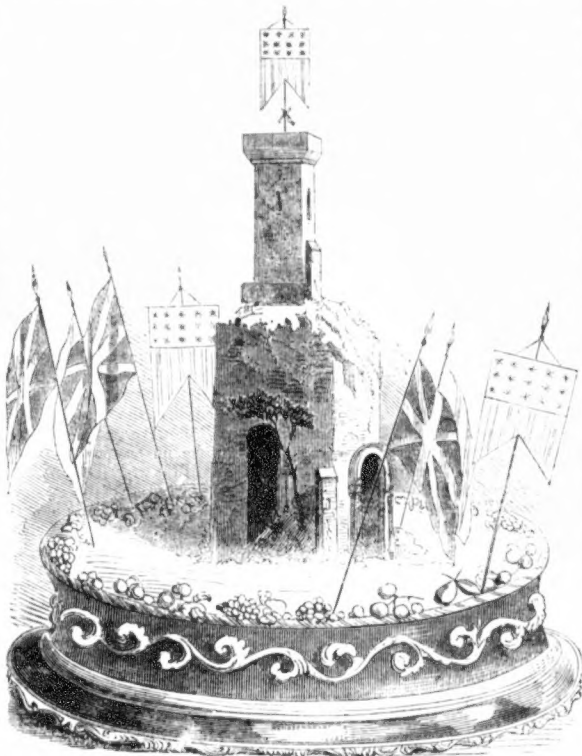
On the whole, this continuous emotion has been patriotic and

generous. It has shown that our nationality is strong, our feeling of race vivid, and our faith in our native land deep and hearty. The very bunglers of the war have felt the benefit of it; and dunces

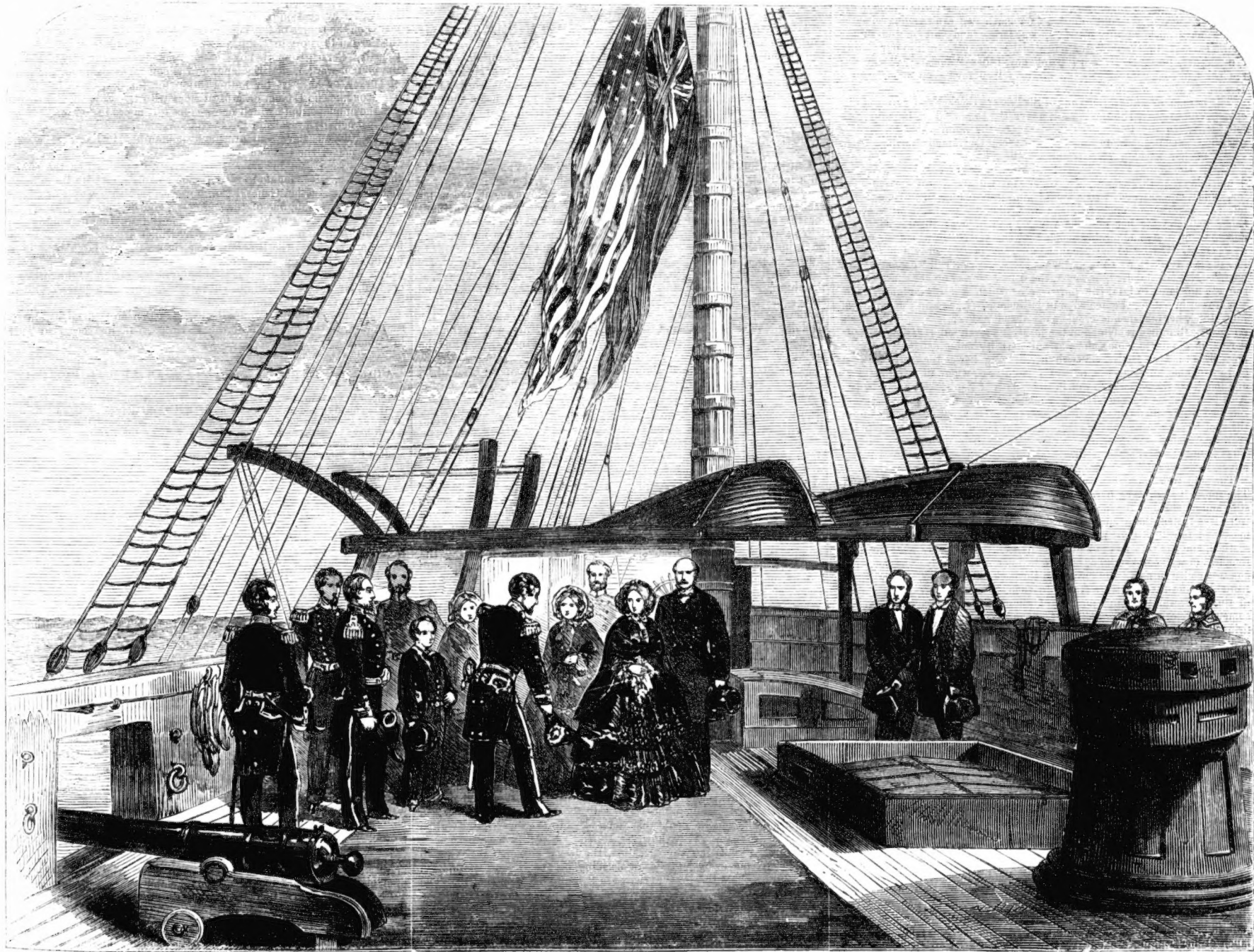
have been treated with a tenderness such as the Turks show to idiots, or the Egyptians once showed to geese. The memory of the brave who fell, and conquered in falling—the glory of those who did fight nobly—has protected others, who have traded on their virtues, and been decorated at their expense. We need not do more than allude to the controversies which the war left behind it, and which have filled such a space in the year. A recent trial showed us how the world begins to think of *these*. In fact, the world has always thought pretty much alike on the subject. But then the world has, with becoming generosity, not suffered its views about the conduct of the war to spoil the welcome of those who did their work splendidly in spite of said conduct. It has allowed the bunglers to come in for a cheer or two among the heroes; it has welcomed the hero, and, in the full flow of kindness, has also welcomed "his man-servant, his maid-servant, his ox, and his ass." The ass had done his bit of mischief, but all was forgiven him *pro tem.*, while the exploits of a nobler nature were being rewarded. The ancient sculptors did not only carve Alcibiades—they likewise carved his dog. Britain welcomed Sir Colin Campbell; it did not hoot —, —, and —!

Two classes are apt to misinterpret the quiet way in which this country took the failures. The bunglers are apt to think they were admired, when they were only spared. Foreigners are apt to think our grumblings at our bunglers proofs that we fear *them*, and will not be as ready to fight them again by and by. Both are profoundly in the wrong, as they will find out on proper occasion. Indeed, with regard to the last point, the fear rather ought to be of the country's too great willingness to rush into war, now that the new generation has tasted its excitements.

We may put down to the account of the Russian war the stability, up to this time, of the Palmerston Ministry—a stability which has disappointed many prophets. The country felt grateful for the preparations of last winter; and as it was pleasing to the national pride to think that we were going to do wonders if hostilities were prolonged, the Premier has enjoyed the benefits of that belief, and all the honour of what "might have been done" this summer. Then,



COLOSSAL CAKE PREPARED FOR HER MAJESTY ON BOARD THE RESOLUTE.



RECEPTION OF HER MAJESTY ON BOARD THE RESOLUTE, BY CAPTAIN HARTSTEIN OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

so many Ministers had broken down, that the world was prepared to make the most of its favourite. So, the evergreen Viscount—whose abilities we always delight to honour—has remained master of the field, even with such subordinates as the Peels, and we hope will make Lord John a peer yet, before his game is up, and so rid us of the veteran in an honourable way. The Viscount needs holding back, indeed, according to many people; but really, after the Bomba experience, we do not think we need be under much alarm.

Our foreign policy this year has presented no remarkable features. The above-mentioned Bomba experience has shown us that a great nation may be beaten and made ridiculous by a little king. After all the talk and the brag, we contented ourselves with a threat; and the monarch, accordingly, sits his throne as tranquilly as his horse. An assassin attempts his life; whereupon, as the telegraph informs us, "the assassin is hanged, and the city tranquil." Our chief lesson will be that we can do very well without a Minister at Naples—an experience which we also learned in the case of America. The controversy which led to this American result was amply noticed in our columns. Our opinion still is—though we are against all undue submission to other Powers—that the United States had the best of the argument, both in the Enlistment and the Central American matters. The conduct of Government in calmly accepting the consequences of its errors was wise and prudent; and we do not believe either of the two nations has often been more friendly to the other than just now.

The birth of a son to the French Emperor was an event chiefly important to Englishmen, as showing, by its reception here at the time, how much Napoleon was respected for his conduct during the war. Since those days, the alliance is a little bit cooler—thanks, of course, in great measure, to the famous French attack on the English press. But apart from this—possibly overrated—event, a kind of notion has been prevalent for some months in England, that England has been too much under French dictation. The organs of Government claim for it the merit of preserving its due place, however,—of having defeated French intrigues at Constantinople, and of securing for England that the coming Conference shall only be about "secondary" matters. Time alone can settle this; but it is plain enough that there was, during the year, a temporary revival of Russian influence connived at in Paris, and which threatened the established system of the spring. We hope that the worst chances have now passed away, but we confess that we do not like the re-opening of the Conferences in any shape.

Altogether, it has been but an ordinary year in politics. The goodness of the harvest was a pleasing incident; and, on the whole, England has been quiet and prosperous. The worst social feature has been the prevalence of frauds, and the alarm about some dangerous results of the ticket-of-leave system. While thankful to Providence for the security which our nation has, on the whole, enjoyed, and for enabling us to bring to a close a deadly and extensive war,—we enter the New Year under a full sense of the difficulties which several public questions present to thoughtful minds, and with a full persuasion that our statesmen have more to be thankful for than to be proud of, in reviewing the past twelvemonth.

THE RETURN OF THE RESOLUTE.

If Turner had lived to this day, he would have found a subject for a picture most worthy to hang by the side of the "Fighting Temeraire." Seeing what an aggregation of sentiment the great painter has thrown around the old liner, tugged at length to her last berth, we can imagine what he would have made of the *Resolute*, wandering and lost in the dreary northern seas, or even of her more matter-of-fact return to our shores. No Turner, however, lives to paint any other "Temeraire," and our readers must be content with an ordinary "engraving on wood," and a few words of the *Resolute's* history.

The barque *Resolute* formed one of Sir Edward Belcher's squadron of discovery, and in May, 1853, was sent, under the command of Captain Kellett, R.N., to the Polar Seas in search of Sir John Franklin, and for scientific purposes. She was—or, since her deliverance enables us to speak of her as of a ship restored to life, let us rather say she is—a stout square-built vessel of 500 tons. She is double-decked and double-planked throughout, in order to withstand the pressure of ice, and she carries two brass guns—six-pounders. When she left the government dockyard, she was liberally provided with everything requisite for her perilous voyage, and both as regards structure and equipment, was admirably adapted for the service in which she was to be engaged. Owing to her peculiar build, she is necessarily a dull sailer, but she is a very strong ship, and what the Americans call "a good safe sea boat." Notwithstanding, however, the care bestowed on her construction, she was not fated to fulfil the purposes for which she was designed. She was frozen in among the icebergs in latitude 77 N., and in the month of May, 1854, her officers and crew finally abandoned her, leaving their effects on board. She had remained in the icebergs sixteen months, when a large portion of the ice in which she was imbedded becoming detached from the mass by a thaw, it floated off with her, leaving her at the mercy of wind and wave, and hurrying her out to remote seas, where in latitude 66° 30' and longitude 64°, she was found in the month of September, 1855, by the American whaler *George Henry*, commanded by Captain Buddington. She had then drifted over the wilderness of waters about 1,200 miles from the spot where she was abandoned. Captain Buddington and a part of his crew approached her over the ice and took up their quarters within her. They found "a death-like silence and a dread repose," for, except themselves, there was not a living creature on board.

The ship was found not to have sustained any very material damage. The ropes, indeed, were hard, and inflexible as chains; the rigging was stiff, and cracked at the touch; the tanks in the hold had burst, the iron work was rusted, the paint was discoloured with bilge-water, and the topmast and topgallantmast were shattered; but the hull had escaped unscathed, and the ship was not hurt in any vital part. There were three or four feet of water in the hold, but she had not sprung a leak. The cordage was coiled in neat little circles on the deck, after the fashion in English ships, and the sails were frozen to such stiffness as to resemble sheets of tin. Several thousand pounds of gunpowder were found on board, somewhat deteriorated in quality, yet good enough for such purposes as firing salutes. Some of the scientific instruments were injured by exposure and rust; but others were in excellent condition. For a year and four months no human foot had trod the deck of that ship.

Captain Buddington remained on board till the thaw set in; and then, when the ice began to soften, he shaped his course to New London, Connecticut, where he arrived in December, 1855. The *Resolute* was removed without delay to New York, and what followed is so honourable to the American Government, and speaks so highly for their courtesy towards this country, that, though it has been often published, it may well be repeated, for it should be universally known. A sum of 40,000 dollars was appropriated, with the concurrence of the Senate and Congress, for the purpose of purchasing the *Resolute* from the whalers, the English Government having waived all claim to her; and it was determined that she should be repaired and re-fitted with the utmost care, with the design of restoring her to the Queen in at least as good a condition as she was at the time when the exigencies of their situation compelled her crew to abandon her. With such completeness and attention to detail has this work been performed, that not only has everything found on board been preserved, even to the books in the captain's library, the pictures in his cabin, and some musical instruments belonging to other officers, but new British flags have been manufactured in the Brooklyn navy yard, to take the place of those which have rotted during the long time she was without a living soul on board. From stern to stern she has been repainted; her sails and much of her rigging are entirely new; the muskets, swords, telescopes,

naul instruments, &c., which she carried, have been cleaned and put in perfect order. Nothing has been overlooked or neglected that was necessary to her complete and thorough renovation; yet, everything that has been cleaned and repaired has, with excellent taste on the part of those who superintended the regulations, been restored to its original position. Thus, when her Majesty visited the ship last week, she saw it in nearly the same condition as when first abandoned. All this, however, we mentioned in our report of the Queen's visit in the last number of the "Illustrated Times." What we did not mention was the tremendous cake made for her Majesty's benefit, but of which some of those points of etiquette, which are always putting people out of the way, prevented her from tasting. The cake is (or, wonderful to tell, it is still extant) of colossal proportions, and made a splendid appearance, dignified as it was with flags national and emblematical. It stood in the state cabin upon a great salver of silver; and since her Majesty could not partake of it, Captain Hartstein will carry it to America with him as a memorial of the day on which he had the honour of delivering the *Resolute* to the Queen of England.

Captain Hartstein and his fellow officers have been worthily entertained in England. We stated last week that he had the honour of dining at Osborne. Since then he has been invited to Broadlands, the seat of Lord Palmerston; with his officers, he was entertained at a banquet on Saturday by Vice-Admiral Sir George Seymour, commander-in-chief; on Tuesday, the Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth gave them a splendid public dinner; and on Christmas Day, they dined with Lady Franklin. The shipowners of Liverpool, by deputation, presented an address to the American officers on Tuesday. They will be conveyed to America by the steam frigate *Retribution*.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

SOME uncertainty has again been thrown over the second Paris Conference. It has been reported that Count Buol had received a despatch informing him that the Cabinet of the Tuileries, after mature reflection, could not accept the interpretation of the Bolgrad question and that of the Isle of Serpents in the absolute terms propounded by England, Austria, and Turkey. Count Buol sent this unexpected declaration to the Emperor of Austria in Italy; and it was expected that the new Conference would be postponed. The "Constitutionnel," however, comes forward to relieve our anxiety. It says that there will be no postponement of the Conference, though they will not be held until the arrival of instructions for the Turkish embassy. We have since learned that the son of the Grand Vizier, Redschid Pacha, who is the bearer of diplomatic powers for the representative of the Porte in Paris, has arrived. The new Conference was, therefore, expected to meet very shortly.

Prince Frederick William of Prussia, after a round of *fêtes*, reviews, balls, &c., has left Paris for Baden. Prince Frederick William carried with him to Paris a commission to invite the Emperor Napoleon to pay a visit to the Court of Berlin, next spring; and it is said that his Majesty has accepted the invitation.

The "Monitor" of Monday contains the report on the Civil List for 1857. The Minister says that "the experience of the past year prescribes to me the duty of calling the attention of your Majesty to the necessity of imposing limits on your munificence." He further on says, that "it would be risking the balance of the finances for 1857, to receive favourably the daily demands made for subventions and Government assistance of every kind." The total expenditure under the head A, "gifts and assistance," amounts, including 625,000 francs to the sufferers by the inundations, to no less a sum than 6,361,411 francs. The Emperor himself magnanimously ordered this rebuke to his generosity to be printed.

SPAIN.

A REVOLUTIONARY club has been discovered at Madrid. Several persons have been arrested and some proclamations seized.

The Queen and King intended to visit Andalusia in the spring. The examining Magistrate entrusted with the prosecution of M. Escosura, ex-Minister of the Interior, on the charge of having published, in the "Presse" of Paris, articles insulting to the Queen, had issued a summons to that gentleman to present himself to take his trial, or to give himself into custody; but it was supposed that the matter would be carried no further.

AUSTRIA.

COUNT CROUDENHOVEN, Secretary of Legation at Vienna, left on the 16th for Paris, with despatches for Baron Hubner, containing a verbal note which the latter is to submit to the French Government, and which replies negatively to the question of granting a compensation to Russia for the abandonment of Bolgrad. The idea of this compensation, one letter states, was not advanced by Russia, who as yet has not approved of it, but by France, who communicated it to England, and afterwards to Austria. Both of these Powers refuse to entertain the idea.

On the 13th inst. a solemn "Te Deum" was performed at Vienna, at the church of the Franciscans, to return thanks for the late providential escape of the King of Naples. Among the persons present were the Empress Mother, the Archduchesses Sophia, Elizabeth, and Maria; the Archdukes Charles, Ferdinand, William, Leopold, Henry, and Maximilian d'Este; the Ministers, the diplomatic body, the staff of the garrison, and the municipal authorities.

Duke Charles Theodore of Bavaria, brother of the Empress of Austria, is about to enter the Austrian navy with the rank of captain.

PRUSSIA AND SWITZERLAND.

THE quarrel between Prussia and Switzerland is now assuming great proportions. Both parties are preparing for war. Letters from Berlin announce that 135,000 men are to be assembled by the 2nd of January. Meanwhile the Federal Council has ordered a levy of 20,000 men; moreover, a reserve will be formed. Colonel Bourgeois will occupy Basle with 10,000 men. Colonel Zeigler will march to Schaffhausen with the other 10,000. The students of Zurich have volunteered to serve in the active army. The Grand Council of Berne have unanimously voted an unlimited credit for the army. The Federal army, the chief command of which since 1847 has been vested in General Dufour, with 91 colonels and lieutenant-colonels, and 132 commissioned officers of inferior rank, comprises, taking the regular troops and the reserve together, an effective force of 108,000 soldiers, of all arms. It will be seen, therefore, that Switzerland is a power of some consideration. All diplomatic relations between the countries have of course ceased. The Prussian subjects in Switzerland, as well as the archives of the legation, have been placed under the protection of the French embassy.

A letter in "Le Nord" affirms as positive that Prussia has already obtained the authorisation of Wurtemberg and of Baden for her troops to pass through those states, in order to take military possession of Schaffhausen. It is not necessary to have that authorisation further confirmed by the Diet—in the first place, because Prussia acts in her own personal name; and next, because she has already received the approbation of that body.

ITALY.

THE "Official Journal" of Palermo announces the arrest of Baron de Bentivenga, the chief of the late movement, as well as the submission of a great number of the insurgents and the dispersion of the others. A letter from that city says:—"Numerous bands of prisoners are arriving here every day. The judicial authorities are actively engaged in examining into the affair. There is no doubt that the leaders in the insurrection will be condemned to death. It is, however, stated that orders have been sent from Naples prohibiting any execution, the Royal clemency reserving to itself beforehand every latitude for deciding on the fate of the guilty. The English frigate *Danfeild* anchored in Palermo roads on the 7th. The whole island is perfectly tranquil."

A letter from Naples of the 16th states that the wound of the King is nearly healed. On the day after receiving it, his Majesty had a slight fever, and for a few days kept his bed. The French and English consuls, instructed by their Governments, had congratulated his Majesty on his es-

cape. The English residents in Naples, together with the visitors, had also signed an address of congratulation to the King, and presented it to him at the palace. The King expressed his gratitude in a very cordial manner. All the distinguished foreigners in the city united in this demonstration. The city was illuminated for four days.

On the 17th inst. a powder magazine, situate at the end of the Mole at Naples, exploded. Some fifteen or twenty persons were killed, and the loss of property was great.

A Vienna letter, speaking of the uncomfortable weather which the Emperor of Austria has got for his Italian tour, states that the winter has set in there with such extreme severity, that the snow has been lying a foot thick in the piazzas at Venice, and the bronze candelabra in the Piazza of St. Mark has been broken by the storm.

Queen Maria Christina arrived at Rome on the 17th, and soon after had an audience of the Pope.

SWEDEN.

A TELEGRAPHIC despatch from Hamburg announces that the Four Chambers of the Swedish Diet, after a stormy debate of four hours' duration, have negatived all the modifications which the Government had proposed to introduce in the legislation for the liberty of the Press.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

SOME French ships are expected to join the English squadron in the Bosphorus.

Halib Bey, Redschid Pacha's son, was to leave on the 12th for Paris, with instructions relative to the Conference.

It is related that a railway, to be called "The Imperial Turkish Rail-road," is to be constructed from Constantinople to the Albanian frontier.

AMERICA.

THE most important news from America relates to a partial "insurrection" of the black population. Disturbances had broken out among the negroes in Tennessee, Franklin, and Dover; in the former county fifteen negroes had been killed by their owners, and eleven hung. Much excitement prevailed. The whites were arming and organising for defence, and the opinion prevailed that a general uprising would take place among the negroes during the holidays. Escapes of slaves were unusually numerous. The Governor of Iowa had claimed, in his message, the protection of the Federal Government for the citizens of Iowa.

Resolutions have been introduced in the South Carolina Legislature deprecating the continual agitation of the abstract theories relative to the slave trade and other matters, as dividing and distracting the state, and alienating from her the support and sympathies of other states.

The "New York Herald" mentions "a new British Treaty." It has reference, it understands, to Cuba and the Spanish possessions, as well as Central America, and its object is the consolidation of the present political condition of these colonies, islands, and states, with a view to the general pacification of that part of the world and the extension of trade; that it is, in fact, a commercial and conservative treaty.

There was an animated debate in the Senate on the 8th, in which Mr. Bigler, in answer to questions relative to the policy of President Buchanan, stated that the people of Kansas must settle the question of slavery for themselves.

MEXICO.

THE "New Orleans Picayune" reports the termination of the insurrection in New Leon, by the submission of General Vidaurri to the Government. By a treaty entered into between Vidaurri and General Lindu, the former acknowledges the authority of the supreme government, and yields allegiance to it on behalf of himself and followers.

THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

FEROUK KHAN, on the 8th, sent off the ultimatum of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, which demands the revision of the treaties now existing with Persia, the evacuation of Herat, authorisation to establish trading settlements on the shores of the Persian Gulf, and the concession of railways on the Persian territory to English companies. According to the "Augsburg Gazette," Persia, supported by Russia, demands the neutrality of Turkey in the present war; whilst England, on the contrary, wishes for the alliance of Turkey, or at least for authorisation for the passage of her troops to Trebizond. The Imam of Muscat sides with the English, and refuses to pay the annual tribute which he owes for salt mines in Persia.

Great activity prevails in the Persian arsenals.

The Russians have sent arms and ammunition to Enzeli, a bay on the Persian side of the Caspian Sea.

The Russian army has not yet stirred from its position on the shores of the Caspian. It amounts to 40,000 men complete, and is still in cantonments. The Russian General had, however, sent three superior officers—viz., one of the staff, one of the engineers, and one of the infantry—into the nearest province of Persia, to examine the situation of the towns and forts, and to take plans of the routes by which a passage might be made for an army. That the Russians are concentrating a large body of men on the Caspian is confirmed from several sources.

Esa Khan, who commanded at Herat, did not surrender the fortress, we are told, for want of provisions, but in consequence of a quarrel with Emir Sirdar, a son of Dost Mahomed.

There are reports that Mourad Mirza, the Persian General, had marched southward, in the direction of the Heriroud, and had occupied Turrah, in Cabul.

A CANARD.—The Russian journal "Le Nord," of Brussels, states that "Mr. James Wilson, a friend of Lord Palmerston, and whose confidence he possesses," has been to Paris in the character of an Envoy Extraordinary, for the purpose of bringing about a complete accord between the two Governments, to "fix definitively the conditions on which the Conference will be opened, the points on which it will have to occupy itself exclusively, as well as the duration of the sittings, and to acquire the certainty that the majority of the Conference will declare against the pretensions of Russia with respect to the Isle of Serpents and Bolgrad, and against all other pretensions which Russia may put forward respecting the Bessarabian frontier question." The "Nord" further affirms that Mr. Wilson has obtained what he asked—that the Conference shall be debarréd from treating any other question, directly or indirectly, but the execution of the 20th article of the treaty—and that it will not hold more than two, or at most three sittings.

A DARK DEED BROUGHT TO LIGHT.—In 1848 Prince Maxime de Suikowski, of Slopna, in Silesia, engaged two men to murder his mother. They fired at her through her bedroom window and killed her. The Prince fled, and joined the insurgents at Vienna, where he was shot in an engagement with the Austrian troops. It was only the other day that the two hired assassins were captured. One of them shortly afterwards died of apoplexy; the other is still in custody awaiting his trial.

THE RUSSIAN INFERNAL MACHINES.—The Cactus of South Shields, after leaving Wyburg recently, struck on one of the infernal machines which were deposited last year, during the war, on the coast of Russia, and received a serious shock. She had to be taken into port to repair the extensive damage she had sustained.

ENGLISHMEN INSULTED AT NAPLES.—The Rev. J. A. Wood and an invalid friend were witnessing a review at Naples, on the 8th, and were standing a few paces only from their carriage, a hired one, when it was forcibly taken possession of by a Neapolitan officer, who roughly ejected the driver from the box and took the reins himself. The Englishmen expostulated, but were unavailingly answered that he did not care for them, that he wanted the carriage to enable him to join his regiment. Surrounded as they were by soldiers, the Englishmen dared not resist, and the vehicle proceeded, by order of the officer, about a mile, when he got off, and departed without the slightest acknowledgment. The Englishmen returned to Naples, and laid a complaint before the British Consul, who, it is said, treated them with the greatest incivility and inattention, and declined to attend to their case. At last, by advice, they applied to Captain Farquhar, of H.M.S. Malacca, who insisted upon the Consul taking the matter in hand. The result was that the Neapolitan officer was compelled to make an ample personal apology.

TERRIBLE OUTRAGE.—A French missionary, the Abbé Chapdelaine, was lately murdered by the Chinese in the province of Chang-Ton. After their victim was dead, his head was stuck upon a pole, and the children encouraged to throw stones at it. The heart was cut in pieces, cooked with pig's tripe, and eaten by the soldiers. So says the Paris "Univers." M. de Concy, French Consul-General in China, has received orders to demand reparation from the Emperor of China, for the death of the Abbé. This demand will be supported by the French squadron, charged to compel the Emperor of China to allow a representative of France to reside at Peking—a privilege which Russia alone has hitherto enjoyed.

IRELAND.

THE MURDER OF MR. LITTLE.—A man named Michael Harrington has been charged on suspicion of having murdered Mr. Little. Harrington is about sixty years of age, and of respectable appearance. Eliza Fitzsimons identified the prisoner. She had been his servant. The prisoner, about two weeks ago, on a Thursday, went to her home in Watling Street about twelve o'clock at night. He seemed a little intoxicated. He called for a drink of water. He washed his hands, which were marked with blood as well as his face. He got a wet cloth, and rubbed down his trousers. He wore white gaiters. Mrs. Feeney, who occupied the same room, asked him was it Mary Whelan left the blood on him, as she found before. He said not; but that he interfered between some men who were fighting, and got the worst of it. He asked Mrs. Feeney to go with him to the Broad-stone, to see his son, John Harrington. She said she would not go. He replied that he did not wish to go alone, in consequence of some dreadful accident on the railway. He then asked Mrs. Feeney to clean a coat for him, as there was white paint on it. He then went away about one o'clock, he left the coat, and called for it on Friday, when Mrs. Feeney told him she could not get the paint off, but there was some blood, which she had removed. He then went away, and she saw no more of him until Thursday, when he was arrested. This witness was shown the razor found in the canal, but could not identify it. Harrington was remanded, and at a subsequent examination discharged.

FALSE ALARM.—There was last week a sudden and extraordinary run for gold on the National Bank—a little panic which extended to Limerick, Thurles, Cashel, Tipperary, and other places in Ireland where branch banks are established. The demand was in all cases promptly met, though the excitement which it caused rather injured business.

THE INCOME-TAX.—A special meeting of the corporation of Dublin has been held in petition against the present oppressive income-tax. It is also expected that meetings of the Chamber of Commerce and of the citizens at large will be held on the same subject, and most probably all the larger towns of Ireland will adopt a similar course, to express the general feeling on the grievance.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—On Saturday evening, Mr. Galbraith Joynt, who holds landed property at Mount St. Catherine, county of Clare, which he recently purchased in the Encumbered Estates Court, was returning home in his gig, on the Clonlara road, not far from Limerick, when he was fired at from behind a hedge. Fortunately the attempt was unsuccessful, for although wounded severely in the leg, Mr. Joynt is not dangerously injured. Not long since the brother of the gentleman attacked received a threatening notice to the effect "that he should bear in mind the spirit of Clare was not yet dead, and that he ought to dread the fate of Gloster." A few years since Mr. Gloster was shot in his gig when coming into Limerick from the county of Clare, and the assassin was never discovered.

PUNISHMENT OF A WRECK.—Michael Tyrrell, John Doyle, Joseph Black, Patrick Dunne, James Keenan, and Denis Murphy, were charged at Arklow, a few days ago, with attempting to plunder the cargo of a vessel named the *Lrawaddy*, which was stranded on the Blackwater-bank on the night of the 13th of October last. It was proved that 400 or 500 armed men, among whom were the prisoners, went to the place where the vessel was stranded, threatened the captain, and succeeded in taking off a part of the cargo. The magistrates inflicted a fine of £50 on each of the defendants, or in default six months' imprisonment.

SCOTLAND.

CATASTROPHE THROUGH DRUNKENNESS.—Five lives have been sacrificed through one man's drunkenness in Shetland. A boat left Lerwick in the afternoon for Bressay; on board were Duncan, a fisherman, his sons James and Francis, Hunter a sailor, and two girls, cousins to the young Duncans. James Duncan had been drinking; after a time he wanted the boat to put back, as he had lost something at Lerwick; against the wishes of the rest he strove to turn the boat round; Hunter at length seized the drunken one, and held him for a time; but then James got free, and flew at his father to strike him—all was confusion, and the boat was upset. Hunter got to land by clinging to the boat and eventually getting into it when it had righted, but all the others were drowned.

THE HEIGHT OF IMPUDENCE.—The following is a copy, verbatim et literatim, of a letter received the other day by a landed gentleman in the Shetlands, who anxiously preserves the game on his estate, from one of the most notorious poachers in the district:—"Rhineholme, Oct., 1856. Sir,—as I made a promise to Mr. — last year that I would not make any more poachings if the gentlemen of the district would allow me any thing for giving it over, for it is worth six pounds a year to me and I will become bound that I will make no more. Please put Down what you Give. Signed S. G.— To Mr. —, Esq."

DINNER TO ADMIRAL SIR HONOUR STEWART.—On Friday week a banquet was given by the corporation and community of Greenock to Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B. The entertainment took place in the Town Hall, an elegant and commodious edifice, just completed at a cost of £20,000, and of which the proceedings on Friday may be considered as the inauguration. The hall floor was tastefully decorated with shrubs, and its walls with wreaths of laurel, interspersed with fruit, trophies of arms, and colours artistically displayed, while the gallery was filled with ladies. The entertainment in all its appointments was most creditable to the taste and liberality of the corporation. The chair was filled by the Mayor, who was supported on the right by the gallant guest of the evening, Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, the Duke of Argyll, Sir R. M. Napier, Admiral Montgomerie, Lieutenant J. A. Stewart Nicolson (Grandee of Greece), Mr. J. M. Shaw Stewart, Captain R. F. Shaw Stewart (Scots Fusilier Guards), and on the left by the Earl of Glasgow, Sir M. Shaw Stewart, M.P., Sir Archibald Alison, Mr. Hall Maxwell, Major Darroch, Sheriff Tennent, &c. Mr. Robert Steele officiated as vice-president. The company numbered about 200.

THE PROVINCES.

BURIED ALIVE.—Two miners were in a coal pit at Granmore, near Chesterfield, when the timber which lined the sides of the pit broke, and they were buried in a great mass of earth. Fletcher, one of the buried men, called out several times, and he was answered from outside. He cried, "Can you get me out?" his words being distinctly heard. The men answered they would do their best. He again called out, "Is the engine running at work?" The men told him they were not, and that the pump was broken. He then said, "If the pumps are not at work I shall be drowned." The manager, John Brailford, then forced a road through a portion of the earth, and down underneath the scaffolding by a long pole, and he attached a lighted candle at the end and put it down the pit, and asked Fletcher if he could see it. Fletcher said, "No," and this was the last word which they heard the poor fellow utter.

A GOOD LANDLORD APPRECIATED.—The tenantry of Mr. G. Lane Fox, of Bramham Park, Yorkshire, subscribed upwards of a thousand pounds for a portrait of that gentleman; and on Thursday week it was presented to Mrs. Fox in the presence of a large assembly of the subscribers and others. Mr. Lane Fox lowered his rents 10 per cent. in the "hard times," and when agricultural affairs became more prosperous, he declined the offer of the tenants to pay the old rents again.

SAM SLICK ON OUR NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.—Judge Halliburton, better known as the author of "Sam Slick," lectured at the Manchester Athenaeum, last week, on the North American Colonies. He said he felt entitled to speak for the colonists, as his family had been a hundred and fifty years established on the other side of the water. He described colonial government as characterised by the grossest ignorance, neglect, and injustice. Not one of our Colonial Ministers had ever been in the Colonies. These Colonies, so dependent upon us, had no hostile tariff, like that of the United States; and it was a sufficient commendation of any article to say that it was from England. The Colonies of America include upwards of 4,000,000 square miles; and the population is most loyal. When the news arrived of the fall of Sebastopol there were illuminations, balls, and festivities throughout the whole of North America. Was this a people to whom we were really to give the cold shoulder? Did we act wisely in so doing? Had we sent out to the Colonies to say that we wanted soldiers or officers, and that we would pay them, we could have had them; for there were more men with rifles in their hands in British North America than there were soldiers at Sebastopol. And these men, too, knew how to use their rifles, and would do so cheerfully. This question must be asked, and must be answered—Were the Colonies to be amalgamated with the United States? (Cries of "No, no!" and "Never!") He did not think the United States wanted them, and he was happy to say that they did not want the United States; but still this alternative was "on the cards." Again, were they to form a confederation, each colony constituting a little state of itself, and so have a sort of Congress presided over by a Viceroy? There were difficulties in the way of the third alternative; but they were not insurmountable. Could the Colonies be made part and parcel of England? This was his favourite plan. But the colonists would not consent to such a union unless it was based on perfect equality. So far they had been treated with the utmost possible contempt. Every petty German prince had a place here, but the Colonies had none. Representation in Parliament was one thing they would require. The colonist felt that if he had been born in the United States, even the Presidentship would be open to him; whilst, as he was, he was looked down upon with contempt by the Yankees, and not considered an equal by the British. He asked this any longer he deserved to hear it. He naturally asked himself why Ireland should have representation and the colonists none? He wished that some man of political influence in this country would take up the question. The author of "Sam Slick" did not fail, of course, to relieve these businesslike arguments with a plectrum supply of wit and humour.

STRIKE OF SHIPWRIGHTS ON THE WEAR.—The anticipated strike of the Wear shipwrights was realised on Saturday. On Thursday week the men, according to a resolution adopted at a monster meeting the previous evening, sent in notices to the masters that unless the proposed reduction in their wages from 6s. to 5s. per day was abandoned, they would strike work. Several of the masters, pressed by their engagements, gave way, but the majority refused to do so, and on Saturday the turn-out was pretty general all along the river.

EXPLOSION AT AN IRON FOUNDRY.—A refinery, at the Monk Bridge Iron-works, Leeds, recently blew up with a report, which was heard at a distance of several miles. The "refinery," as the name indicates, is a part of the works appropriated to the refining of the metal used in other parts of the establishment. The sides of the building were open, but there were a roof and chimney supported on four iron pillars. The refinery, at the time of the accident, contained about 25 cwt. of metal in a molten state, and the work appeared to have progressed satisfactorily until five minutes to eight, when two explosions were heard in rapid succession, and in a moment the brick chimney, the burning cinders, and molten metal, were hurled into the air to a great height. Edward Dickinson of Hunslet, who was at the moment engaged in stirring the fire, was thrown some distance by a quantity of molten metal striking him upon the face and breast. He fell—almost instantly rose—but was knocked down again by the descending bricks and rubbish. Robert Barlow, another man working at the refinery, was scalded by the molten metal about the hands and thighs, but his injuries were not very serious, and he walked home. Dickinson, however, was found to be dreadfully injured.

ENTERTAINMENT OF CRIMEAN SOLDIERS.—On Thursday week, a banquet was given to the 5th company of the 11th battalion in charge of the H. Battery of Royal Artillery, now stationed in Nottingham Barracks, who achieved distinction in the late war. A number of other guests were also invited. At half-past three a procession was formed from the barracks, headed by the South Nottinghamshire Yeomanry band, followed by the Artillery, with banners flying. During the progress the soldiers were escorted by a large crowd of civilians, who were delighted to do honour to their gallant defenders. The men entered the banquet room in the Exchange Hall, and sat down at three tables, which extended nearly the length of the room. Mr. ex-Mayor Birkin occupied the chair, and on his right and left were Captain Leslie, the Mayor of Nottingham, and a number of other influential persons. The room was tastefully decorated. The Royal standard was displayed behind the chairman's table, and was surmounted by an illuminated device, with the word "Sebastopol." The conviviality was kept up until a late hour, the men being allowed to enjoy themselves after their own fashion.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.—Worcester Cathedral has been for some time under repair by the Dean and Chapter. On Friday week, three men were at work on a scaffolding in the south transept, when one of the supporting poles suddenly broke, and the poor fellows fell to the ground, the timbers falling upon them. The accident was not observed at the time, and was only discovered a short time afterwards by the foreman of the works, who found the three men lying in an apparently lifeless state under the fallen timbers. Of course, he speedily obtained assistance, the men were extricated and carried to the Worcester Infirmary, when it was found that one had received fatal injuries (of which he died in an hour or two after); that the second had received a concussion of the brain, a broken leg and shoulder; and that the other had also received serious, though it is hoped not mortal, injuries.

WASTEFUL DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT STORES.—At the weekly meeting of the Council of the Liverpool Financial Reform Association on Thursday week, the following beautiful specimen of official thrift and ingenuity was laid before the council as an exhibit:—There is a ship now in Liverpool which carried a cargo of rum to Belalava, with orders to return in ballast. The war having ceased, and the rum not being required for the troops, it was sold at Constantinople at the rate of 5d. per gallon, or thereabouts, and the vessel returned to England in ballast, as originally intended. The quantity thus disposed of is said to have been 800 puncheons, or about 85,000 gallons, the worth of which, in England, at the present moment, would probably be about 5s. per gallon. Of course it never occurred to the official mind that all the labour and expense of discharging cargo and taking to ballast might have been avoided, and some £17,000 saved in the purchase of a similar quantity of spirits, simply by bringing the rum back to England; or, if it did, the official instructions must have been the insuperable obstacle in the way, when common sense dictated the possibility of such a course of proceeding.

FEVERISH POLITICIANS.—A certain party at Newcastle-on-Tyne, led by persons who espouse the views of Mr. Urquhart, held a meeting on Wednesday week, to consider "the menacing aspect of our foreign affairs." The occasion for the meeting was the war with Persia. They denounced the Calcutta proclamation as an evasion of law, and they adopted this very practical resolution:—"That, in the hopelessness of either prevention or redress by the Parliament, it is requisite to appeal to the laws against the subordinate agents executing lawless orders; and this meeting pleads itself, in case the expedition against Persia shall be postponed, to bring to trial for their lives, before the Central Criminal Court, certain of the officers and soldiers engaged therein!"

SMUGGLING WITH A WILL.—A man named Gorey, living at Woodmill, near Southampton, has been convicted of smuggling transactions to an extraordinary extent. Above fifty boxes of tobacco (valuing nearly three thousand pounds) were found in his possession; and it is suspected that a much larger quantity has been got rid of. Gorey said he took the tobacco to his house on the 1st inst., at the request of some persons who said the roads were so bad they could not travel with it; and that he was sorry for having done so. The tobacco was landed from a boat, and that he had seen a wagon and two carts go on laden with the same kind of goods. The tobacco seized was valued at £520 15s., which sum being trebled, made up the amount of the penalty to which the defendant had rendered himself liable. The magistrates inflicted the full penalty, £1,560 15s.

MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF A YOUNG LADY.—Mr. John Garland is a timber-merchant of Banbury. On Friday night his two daughters, aged respectively eighteen and twenty, left home to take an airing. The elder proposed that they should go down to the timber-yard (which is near the canal and railway stations), and return with their father to dinner. When at the timber yard they crossed the bridge leading to the railway, accompanied by a large Newfoundland dog, to see the train pass. At the station the elder sister left the younger with the dog, for the purpose of recalling two younger brothers who were going another road. Returning to the station a few minutes after, she was surprised to find her sister gone; but concluded that she had gone home. This, however, was not the case; and a short time after the dog returned besoddened with wet and dirt. Inquiries were set a foot, with no result. Night came on, with no tidings. The whole town was excited with the wildest conjectures—elopement, abduction, and so forth; and so passed Saturday and Sunday forenoon. At about two o'clock on Sunday, the mystery was partly solved. The young lady's body was found in the river Cherwell, about a quarter of a mile from where she was last seen, but how it came there is not yet known.

THE SUNDAY LEAGUE IN THE "WEST."—The Sunday League lately held a meeting at Bath to promote their views, and met with the discouragement which has almost always attended them in every town they have visited. The chair was taken by Mr. James Keene, and the platform was thronged by clergymen and ministers. Mr. Louden, of London, moved the first resolution,—"That, in the opinion of this meeting, the opening of the museums, galleries, and libraries, and the performance of music on Sundays, would improve the social habits and morals, and increase the happiness of the working classes." Mr. Louden advocated the views of the League at great length, and amid much interruption. Dr. Brabant seconded the resolution, and argued in its favour on religious grounds. The Rev. W. C. Magee proposed an amendment as follows:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, the opening of places of amusement upon Sunday would not benefit the working classes, but would tend to injure their social and moral habits, and would prove fatal to their true happiness and higher interests." The amendment was carried by a large majority.—A similar result attended an attempt to promote the objects of the society at Bristol.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—The Rev. William Mason, Vicar of Busby and Faristhorpe, near Alford, had come to Louth for the purpose of taking one of his daughters home from school for the holidays, who was to meet him at the station. Instead of passing through the gates to the front, Mr. Mason went on the line to reach the platform, another daughter following, being cautioned by the gate-keeper, as an engine was shunting. In turning to go up the stone sloping, the engine came suddenly upon him, crushing him between it and the platform, upon which he was ultimately thrown, with both his thighs broken, and his head fractured. The daughter was only about two yards behind her father when the accident occurred.—On Thursday night, the 15th inst., while the up train for London, which leaves Southampton at 8 p.m., was proceeding at the usual rate of speed between Farnborough and Woking Stations, Michael Knight, foreman of platelayers, fell from the engine, and was so seriously injured that he died after a few hours.

DEATH FROM FRIGHT.—Robert Mitchell, a healthy and intelligent lad of 15, living at Alfreton, was in the habit of going, after leaving off work, to a farmhouse at some little distance to fetch milk. The farmer had two servants, one named Percival, twenty years old, the other named Hudson, fifteen. On Monday evening, the 15th inst., Mitchell went as usual, about six o'clock, for the milk, and remained till nearly eight, listening to tales about some mysterious knockings. Percival and Hudson then agreed to frighten Mitchell as he went home, the former arranging to put on a white table-cloth and stand in a field, not far from the house, through which Hudson was to conduct the lad, and to feign alarm as if he saw a ghost. This scheme was accordingly carried into effect, the pretended ghost gliding behind a stile which the poor lad had to pass. Mitchell cried, "Is it Jack?" but received no answer beyond a moaning noise, Hudson in the meanwhile having hid himself behind a tree. At length Percival threw off his disguise, but the boy was much terrified, and arrived home almost exhausted with nervous excitement. He lost his appetite, and although he went to work the next day, was obliged to be conveyed home and put to bed, where he was seized with vomiting, and raved until his death, on Friday evening. The medical attendant, on the inquest subsequently held, was of opinion that death resulted from the shock caused to the nervous system on the previous Monday evening, and the jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Percival, who was accordingly committed to jail.

SOME OF THE ADMIRERS OF THE LATE FRANCES O'CONNOR are about to erect a monument to him in Nottingham.

A LABOURING MAN, OF GLOUCESTER, recently blew his brains out, for no better reason than ill-success at cards.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—NO. XXIX.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

On Tuesday, the 16th of December, Parliament, after an interval of thirty days, once more "assembled;" but as her Majesty's Government is not yet prepared for the "despatch of business," it was again immediately prorogued. At three o'clock, or thereabouts, there were in the House of Peers three Noble Lords—to wit, my Lord Chancellor, the Lord Montagu, and the Lord Sydney; and as they were the appointed "commissioners" to prorogue Parliament, in place of her Majesty, they were in full robes, and sat on the woolsack, my Lord Chancellor in the middle, my Lord Montagu on his right, and my Lord Sydney on his left. Their robes were scarlet, and the lay Lords had each on an opera hat; but my Lord Chancellor wore a small triangular or three-cocked hat, which, set as it was on the top of his enormous wig, gave to his Lordship a very remarkable appearance.

BLACK ROD GOES TO THE LOWER HOUSE.

As soon as "the House" had assembled, the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod was ordered to proceed to the Lower House to summon "her Majesty's faithful Commons" to the bar of the Upper House, to hear "the commission" and prorogation read, whereupon the stately officer, in full court dress, with sword by his side, hat under his left arm, and his officer's rod on his right shoulder, marched down to the Lower House. The House of Commons had already assembled; that is to say, one of the clerks of the table was there—no Members were present. In short, no one was there excepting the said clerk.

HE ARRIVES.

At the door sat the doorkeepers in due form; and as soon as the principal doorkeeper saw "Black Rod" approaching in the distance, he slid into the House, and banged the door. The door of the people's House is always thus ostentatiously shut when "Black Rod" approaches, to show, it is said, that no official of the Upper House, or Royal messenger, may enter the House of the "Commons of England" without the said Commons' permission. When "Black Rod" arrived, and found the door shut, he lifted up his rod, and struck the door three times, and it was then thrown open by the doorkeeper within, who shouted out "Black Rod," to announce to the House (*ridelicet*, the clerk) that this august official was approaching.

HE ENTERS.

As he entered the House he bowed, and his bow was returned by the clerk; and on approaching the table his bows were repeated three times, and three times answered by the clerk, bow for bow. Having arrived at the "table of the House" he lifted himself up to his full height, set his rod upon the table and in stately phrase, summoned "her Majesty's Faithful Commons" to the Upper House. And having delivered himself of his message, he retired backwards, bowing as he went, the clerk doing the same to him. And then when he had arrived at the door, the "House" (that is, the clerk) arose, and followed Black Rod in procession to the House of Peers.

HE RETURNS WITH THE COMMONS.

When "the Commons" (that is, the solitary clerk) arrived at the Upper House, it stood at the Bar with "the Black Rod," and bowed to the Commissioners, who politely took off their hats and bowed again. On being duly ready, the Clerk of Parliament, Mr. Leveson, read aloud the commission from her Majesty,—appointing the Most Noble the Lord Chancellor (here he turned and bowed to the Noble Lord, and received a bow in return), and the Most Noble the Lord Montagu (bowings again), and the Most Noble the Lord Sydney (bowings repeated), to be Commissioners, &c. &c. And when he had finished "My Lord Chancellor" arose, and, addressing "My Lords and Gentlemen" ("My Lord" being himself and two brother Commissioners, and "Gentlemen" being the aforesaid clerk), informed them that Parliament was prorogued until the 3rd of February, then "to meet for despatch of business." The august ceremony hereupon terminated, and the two Houses incontinently dispersed.

COURT-MARTIAL ON LIEUTENANT DEANE.—Lieutenant H. A. Murray Deane, of the 22nd Foot, was brought to trial about three months ago on their charges, which were to the effect that he had wilfully failed to fulfil the terms of a written guarantee given by him voluntarily to the officers of his Majesty's 22nd Regiment while in India to pay them, six months after the landing of the regiment in England, all sums of money due from Paymaster Barlow (Lieutenant Deane's father-in-law); for having abused the trust reposed in him as treasurer of the private funds of officers; and for having torn or destroyed a leaf or leaves from the officers' ledger containing the accounts of Paymaster Barlow, with a view to conceal the amount drawn and received by that officer. The Court had been ordered about a month since to reconsider their finding; for though they acquitted Lieutenant Deane of any fraudulent intent, and admitted that he had appropriated the lost funds to some, though not the right, regimental uses, yet they nevertheless sentenced him to be cashiered. His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief thereupon advised her Majesty not to confirm the sentence, because there was no moral turpitude in Lieutenant Deane's conduct. The Queen was graciously pleased not to confirm the sentence, and Lieutenant Deane was therefore "acquitted." There is not even any formal reprimand superadded. We are informed that a court of inquiry is ordered to report on the conduct of the other officers of the 22nd Regiment respecting the proceedings in reference to this case.

THE BRITISH BANK.—A decision of the Lords Justices, on Friday week, has had the effect of transferring the assets of the defunct Royal British Bank to the hands of the official assignee of the Court of Bankruptcy, who will forthwith proceed to divide the amount, minus the costs of the litigation, among the creditors. The first dividend of it is expected £5s. in the pound, will shortly be paid.

PURIFICATION OF THE THAMES.—Sir Benjamin Hall has at length struck out a course which seems to get over the differences and difficulties which have arisen since the purification of the Thames. Sir Benjamin proposes to appoint three engineers, before whom shall be laid all plans hitherto produced, or any that may be hereafter produced, the three gentlemen being charged to make a complete report upon the whole subject—the plans, the necessities of the case, and the opportunities. He proposes that two of those gentlemen shall be civil engineers, and one a military engineer; a suggestion which will give the balance to civil objects and interests, and will yet secure so much more of suggestive observation as may be derived from the training of a military engineer.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.—The Administrative Reform Association has issued another letter from Mr. Gassiot, who may be called the Minister of the Interior to Mr. Roebuck, the Premier of the Reforming Ministry. One aim is to point out, that in many popular constituencies, which are above corruption and intimidation, a "small clique" really returns the members; a second is to remind these constituencies how unfavourable to their members is the contrast between their attendance in the House of Commons and that of the Government placemen; a third is to warn the electors that, if they choose the nominees of party clubs in London, instead of selecting men whose antecedents they know and whose private characters are a guarantee of political integrity, they must not be surprised if the member so elected is lax in his attendance in the House, but by no means lax in the attention he pays to his own interests. Independent constituencies should exact pledges from members that they will be constant in their attendance in Parliament.

FINAL ARCTIC SEARCH.—There is now little or no doubt as to the intention of the Government to despatch final expeditions in search of further traces of Sir John Franklin. They will probably consist of three parties—one overland, another via Behring's Straits, and a third via Davis's Straits. The Behring's Straits expedition will probably be commanded either by Captain Collinson (should he volunteer his services), or Captain Rochfort Maguire, an officer of great energy and much arctic experience. The Baffin's Bay expedition will, it is supposed, be offered to Captain M'Clintock; but we have as yet heard no one mentioned to command the overland party.

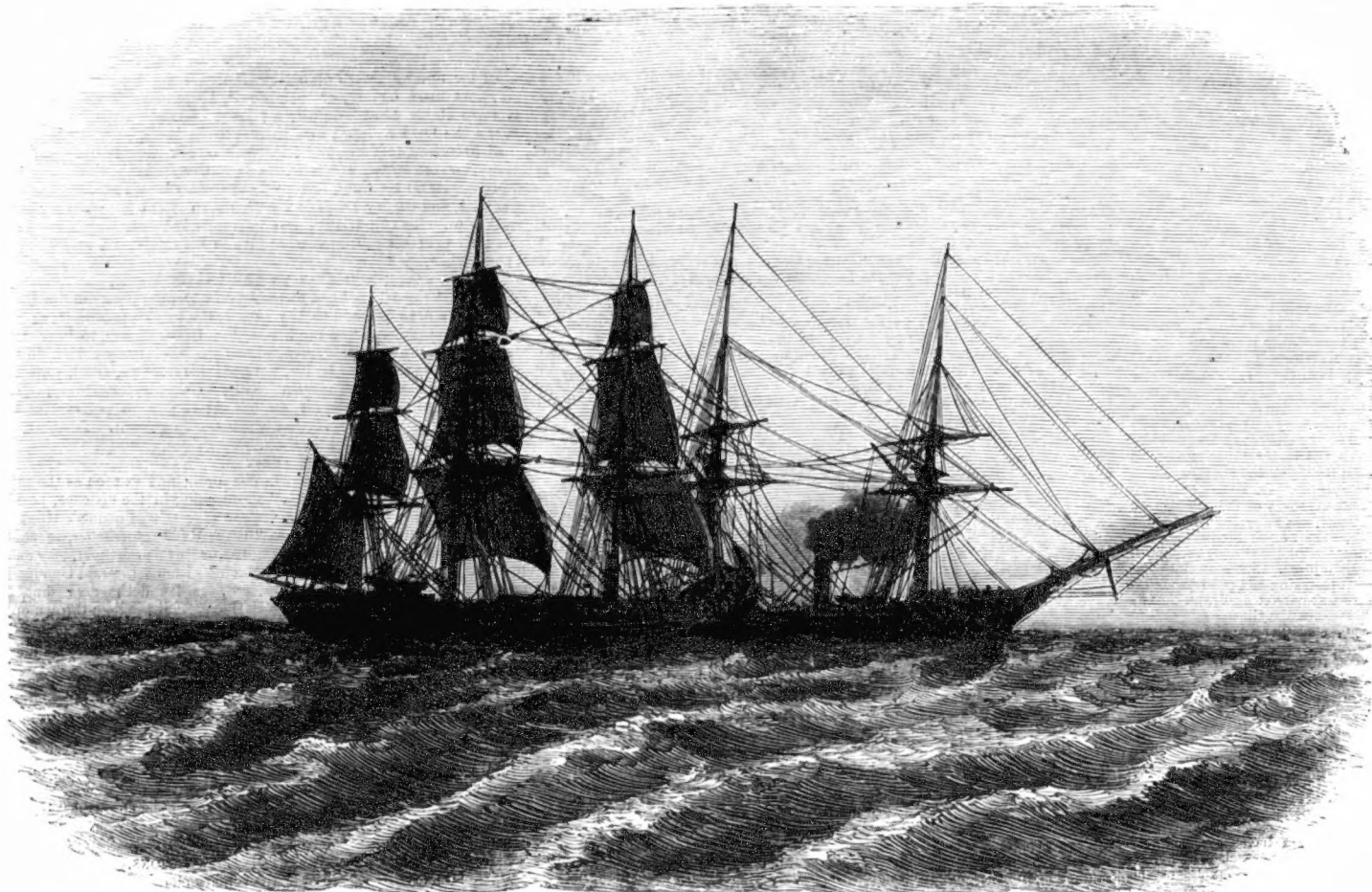
LORD CAMPBELL has addressed a communication to the Postmaster-General in reference to the illegibility of the Post-marks on letters. His Lordship says that he has seen the course of justice most seriously obstructed by the illegibility of these marks, and points to the fact, that Continental letters always show most distinctly the time and place at which they are posted.

THE KING OF SWEDEN recently announced, at the opening of the Diet, that a bill would be presented in the course of the session for the establishment of freedom of religious worship in the kingdom.

THE LOSS OF THE LYONNAIS.

The loss of the *Lyonnais* was reported in the "Illustrated Times" of the 6th inst.; we have now an opportunity of accompanying two engravings illustrative of this melancholy disaster by a few additional words of information.

The *Lyonnais*, our readers will remember, was a new English-built iron screw steamer, running between New York and Havre. On the 1st of November, she left New York with a large number of passengers, and a cargo valued at 50,000 dollars. On the night of the 2nd, at about eleven o'clock, and when the ship was running at eleven knots an hour, a sail



THE LOSS OF THE LYONNAIS: THE COLLISION.—(FROM A SKETCH BY DURAND BRAGER.)

was desecrated bearing down upon the *Lyonnais*. As soon as the danger was known on board the steamer, her helm was put hard a-port, and the whistle sounded; but before this signal could avail, or the unfortunate vessel could answer to her helm, she was struck amidships, and stove in from the companion-way to the shrouds. The vessel which had caused this damage, left her figure-head behind; it was a black dragon, with a gilded spear in its mouth.

The sea was running rough when the collision took place; and the breach in the side of the *Lyonnais* was utterly unmanageable. The water pouring in, the engine fires were soon extinguished; and before morning the after compartments of the vessel were so completely filled that the destruction of the ship was almost beyond question. The pumps were resorted to; but they were choked up and useless. Meanwhile, some of the

passengers assisted the crew in shifting the cargo; and when these and other means to save the ship proved useless, the captain ordered some of her cargo to be thrown overboard. An attempt was even made to prevent the influx of the water at the breach by means of sails and mattresses, but this again proved hopeless; and on the afternoon of the 3rd, it was resolved to abandon the ship.

The starboard boats were now found to be very much damaged by the collision. The first cutter was lowered, with twenty-five persons, including the engineers, the steward, and ten cabin servants; this boat had a compass, chart, &c. A second boat also took off twenty-five persons, and was also provided with provisions and nautical instruments. One life-boat carried away some twenty persons, and another eighteen. A raft was also constructed, and was moored to the hull of the ship with a ten-fathom

hawser, to be cut when the vessel should sink.

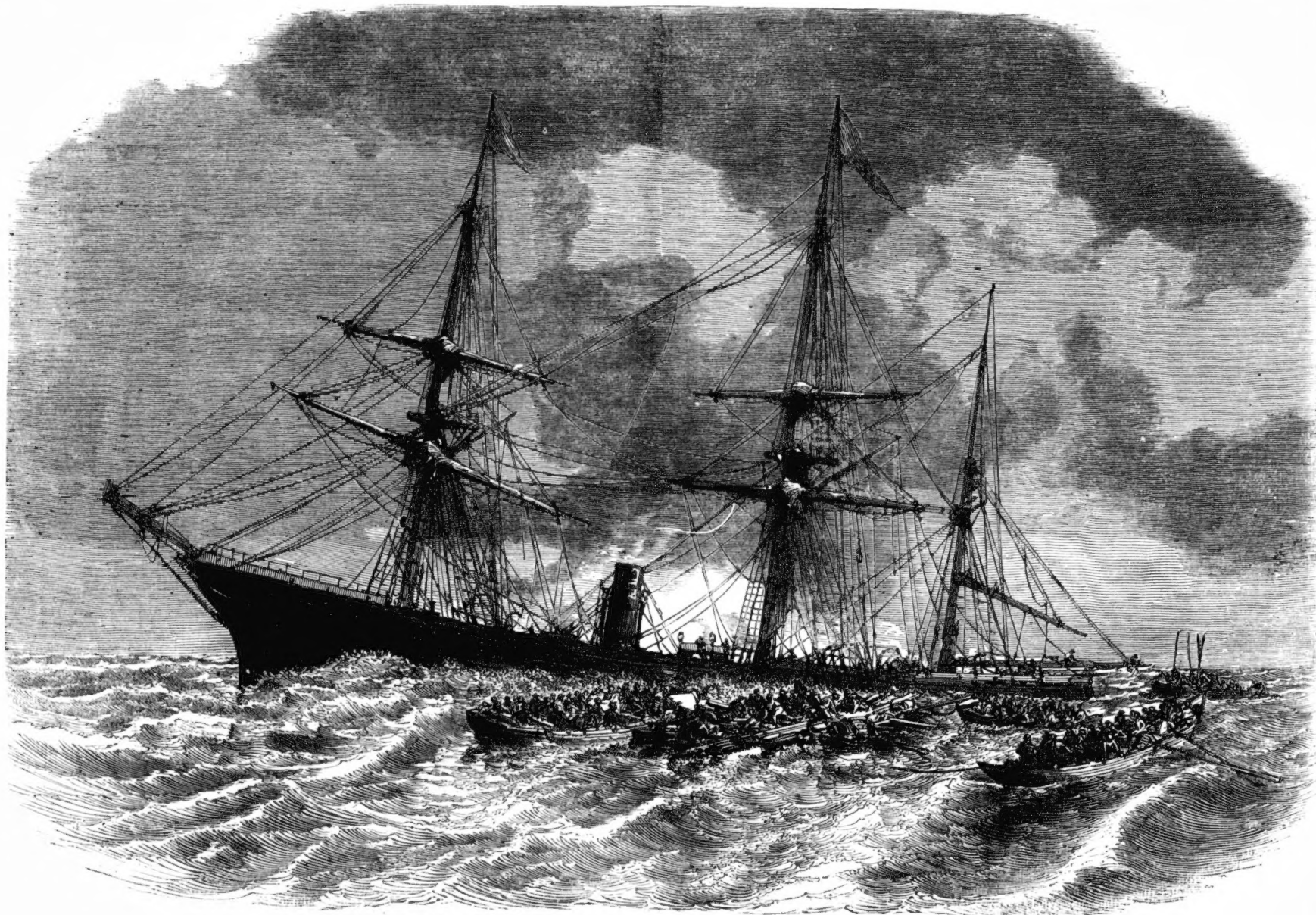
The embarkation seems to have been accomplished without accident, and, indeed, both sailors and passengers appear to have been cool and self-possessed throughout. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 4th, they abandoned the wreck, making their course in the supposed direction of Long Island. They kept company till five in the afternoon of that day, when a fog set in; they then separated, and only one was ever heard of. Heavy weather came on with ice and snow, and for five days the parties saved were running before the wind in the open sea. Two men were frozen to death in passing the banks, one a fireman, and the other a passenger. On the morning of the 9th, the *Elise* of Bremen bore in sight, the life-boat was perceived, and Lieutenant Laguiere and his fellow-sufferers were saved.

We cannot fail to notice certain discrepancies in the first statement of Lieutenant Laguiere and that subsequently given by him on oath before the French Consul-General.

In the first account, we learn that the boats were badly provisioned, and were without compasses; that the water in the ship had spoiled, and that the bread and other provisions could not be obtained from the storeroom, on account of the storm; and, moreover, that two of the life-boats went down, and that he did not believe the raft could have weathered the storm during the night, but that all went down on it. In the sworn account, we find that the boats had nautical instruments, were well-provisioned, especially the raft. Further, we find, in the first statement of the Lieutenant, that "two of the boats had scarcely left the steamship when they went down, and those who were in them endeavoured to reach the raft, which was crowded with about fifty persons. Many, in their efforts to preserve their lives in this

death struggle, sank to rise no more. Of the forty-five to fifty persons in these boats, I think two-thirds were drowned." But in the sworn testimony of the Lieutenant, this terrible statement is thus softened—"During the night, the life-boat commanded by Mr. Dublot, which had been damaged at the moment of the collision, was carried by the waves against the raft, and immediately sank. Those in her were rescued by the raft." There is in these two statements a difference of painful import to the friends and relatives of the passengers.

The conduct of the captain appears to have been most worthy. He was the last to leave the sinking steamer. Lieutenant Laguiere also seems to have behaved gallantly; and we have only to deplore that the search subsequently made for the raft and the other boats proved so utterly unsuccessful. There can now be no question that they were all lost.



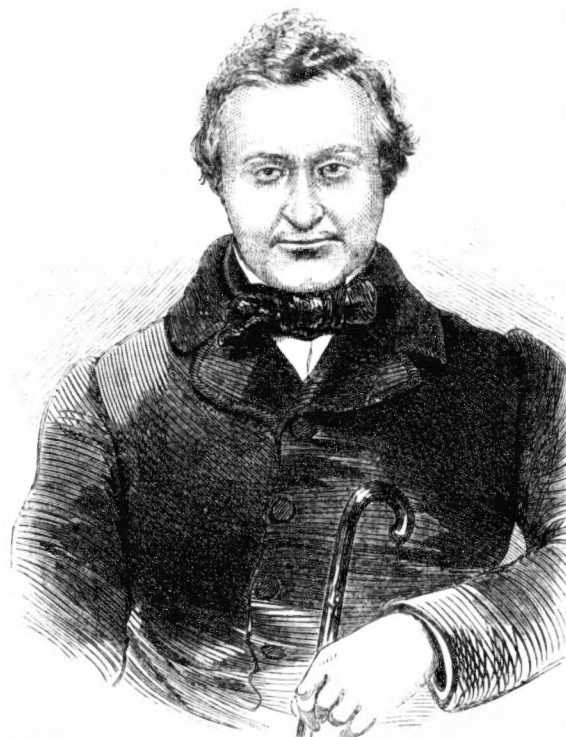
THE LOSS OF THE LYONNAIS: THE PASSENGERS QUITTING THE SINKING VESSEL.



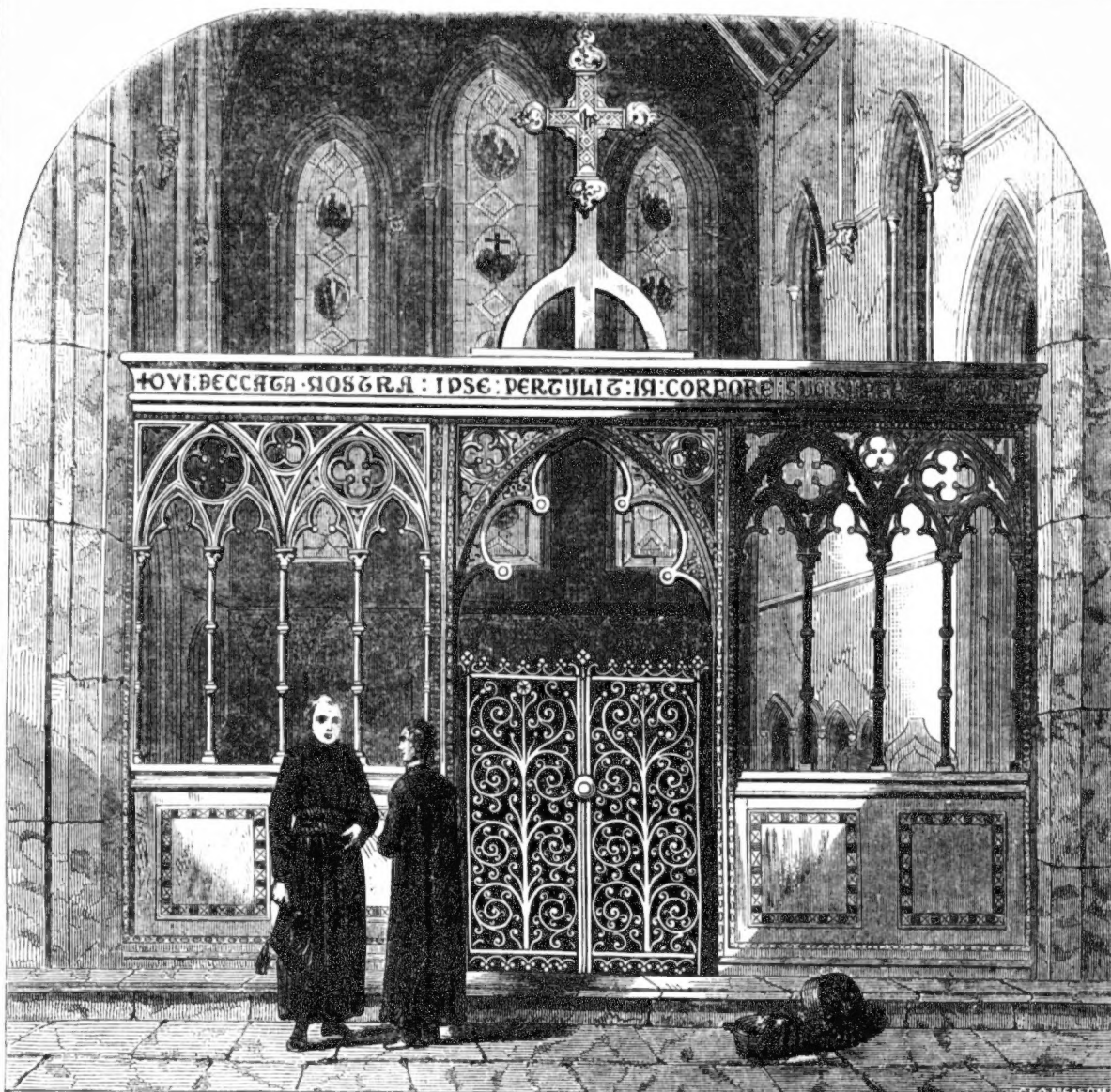
REV. MR. LIDDELL, INCUMBENT OF ST. PAUL AND ST. BARNABAS.

THE RELIGIOUS WAR IN BELGRAVIA.

THE Knightsbridge Church cases have already excited enormous interest and given rise to strange and remarkable scenes. Still, the combatants appear by no means satisfied with the amount of public attention they have attracted; and, judging from the present aspect of affairs, we seriously apprehend that the religious wars of Belgravia may last for the reigns of



MR. WESTERTON, CHURCHWARDEN OF ST. PAUL AND ST. BARNABAS.



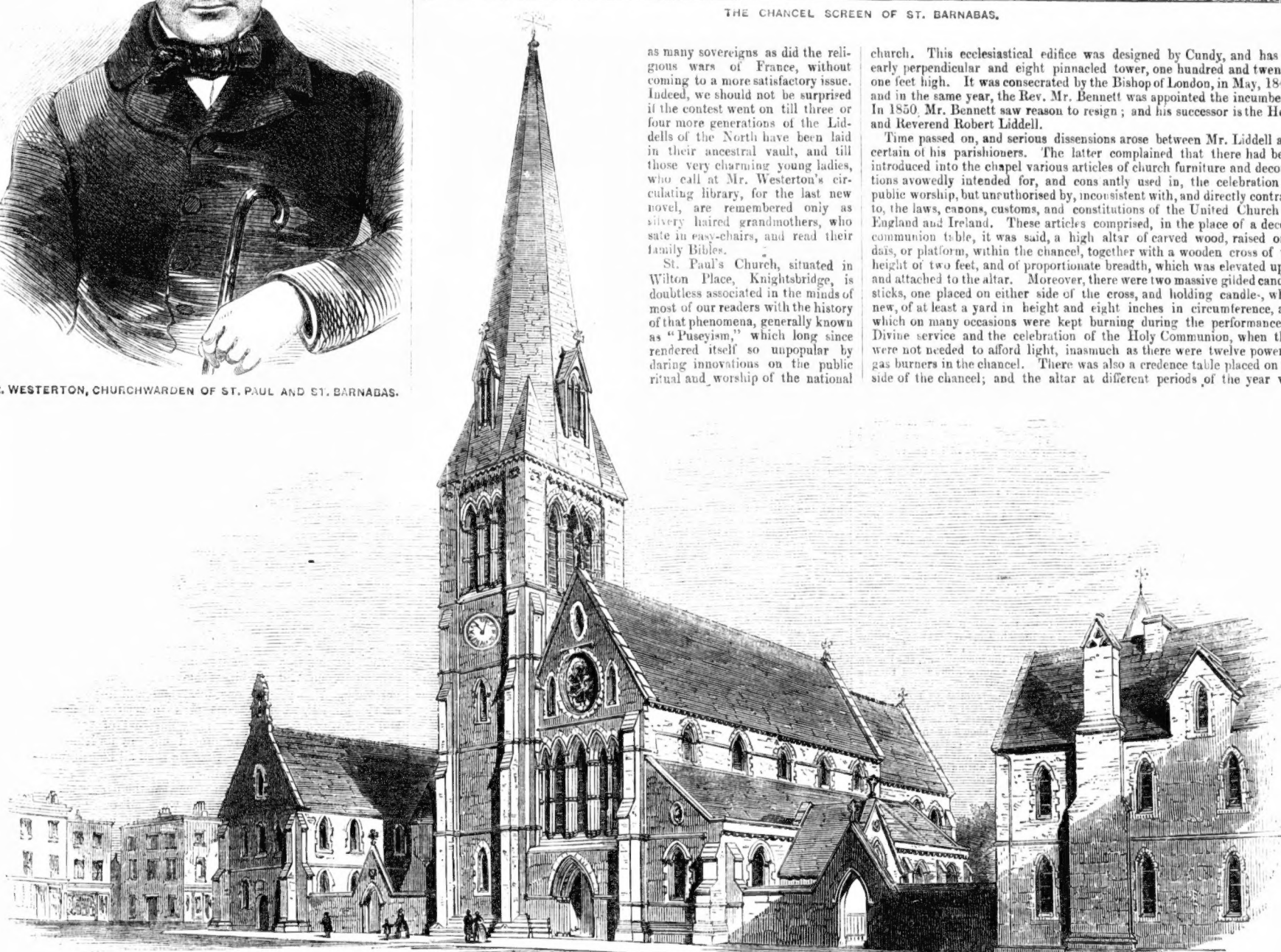
THE CHANCEL SCREEN OF ST. BARNABAS.

as many sovereigns as did the religious wars of France, without coming to a more satisfactory issue. Indeed, we should not be surprised if the contest went on till three or four more generations of the Liddells of the North have been laid in their ancestral vault, and till those very charming young ladies, who call at Mr. Westerton's circulating library, for the last new novel, are remembered only as silvery haired grandmothers, who sat in easy-chairs, and read their family Bibles.

St. Paul's Church, situated in Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, is doubtless associated in the minds of most of our readers with the history of that phenomena, generally known as "Puseyism," which long since rendered itself so unpopular by daring innovations on the public ritual and worship of the national

church. This ecclesiastical edifice was designed by Cundy, and has an early perpendicular and eight pinnacled tower, one hundred and twenty-one feet high. It was consecrated by the Bishop of London, in May, 1843, and in the same year, the Rev. Mr. Bennett was appointed the incumbent. In 1850, Mr. Bennett saw reason to resign; and his successor is the Hon. and Reverend Robert Liddell.

Time passed on, and serious dissensions arose between Mr. Liddell and certain of his parishioners. The latter complained that there had been introduced into the chapel various articles of church furniture and decorations avowedly intended for, and constantly used in, the celebration of public worship, but unauthorized by, inconsistent with, and directly contrary to, the laws, canons, customs, and constitutions of the United Church of England and Ireland. These articles comprised, in the place of a decent communion table, it was said, a high altar of carved wood, raised on a dais, or platform, within the chancel, together with a wooden cross of the height of two feet, and of proportionate breadth, which was elevated upon and attached to the altar. Moreover, there were two massive gilded candlesticks, one placed on either side of the cross, and holding candle, when new, of at least a yard in height and eight inches in circumference, and which on many occasions were kept burning during the performance of Divine service and the celebration of the Holy Communion, when they were not needed to afford light, inasmuch as there were twelve powerful gas burners in the chancel. There was also a credence table placed on the side of the chancel; and the altar at different periods of the year was



THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS, PIMLICO.

covered and decorated by five differently-coloured coverings, each of which was embroidered in a fanciful manner, and varied at different periods of the year. What was more, the covering used on the altar at the time of the Communion, was of worked and embroidered white linen, enriched with, and bordered at the ends with elaborately worked lace; and the other articles of linen used in that office, instead of being such as were ordinarily adopted in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, were also ornamented and enriched with a border of lace.

It was not only at St. Paul's such Popish practices prevailed; at St. Barnabas, in Queen Street, Pimlico, the state of matters was far from satisfactory. This edifice is a portion of the college founded on St. Barnabas' Day, 1816, on ground presented by the first Marquis of Westminster. The building is in the early pointed style, and the church has a Chancery tower and spire, 170 feet in height, with a peal of ten bells. Complaints about the mode of conducting public worship at St. Barnabas gradually became loud and deep; and the parishioners arrived at the resolution of taking measures to remove the rood, screen, and brazen gates attached, together with the cross elevated and fixed on the screen, and also the stone altar and cloths used for covering the same, and the cross ornamented with jewels elevated thereon and fixed thereto, with the candlestick and candles placed thereon, and also the marble credence, preparatory altar, or credence table, and cloths used for covering the same; and to substitute in their place a decent and proper table for the administration of the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion, with a decent and proper covering thereto; and to set up on the east end of the chancel the Ten Commandments.

Matters now reached such a pass, that many of Mr. Liddell's parishioners were precluded by conscientious motives from attending divine service; and several of them, complained to Mr. Liddell on the subject. At length, in February, 1854, Mr. Westerton, being church-warden, addressed a formal remonstrance to Mr. Liddell, and the latter replied, that his correspondent must take such a course as he thought proper. This foolish way of dealing with such a subject brought matters to a crisis. Mr. Westerton memorialised the Bishop of London, praying that Mr. Liddell, his curates, and all others, might be admonished to discontinue such practices, and that the Bishop would be pleased to direct all necessary proceedings which might be found requisite for the purpose of removing the church furniture and superstitious things complained of. The view taken of the dispute by the Bishop of London was not satisfactory; and Mr. Westerton appealed for redress—not, indeed, to the God of Battles—but to the laws of the Church.

On Tuesday, the 24th of July, 1855, the case was brought before Dr. Lushington, presiding in the Consistory Court. The arguments of the Learned Counsel occupied several days, and it was not till the 5th of December that judgment was delivered. The Court was densely crowded on the occasion; and Dr. Lushington thus expressed himself:—

"The whole of history, both sacred and profane, shows the proneness of mankind to idolatrous practices. So powerful has this propensity been, that all who profess themselves Protestants admit that even the religion of Christ, in itself the least likely to give rise to so fearful an abuse, yet has been so abused; and therefore, in our Reformed Church every precaution has been taken against so deplorable an error. I am bound by the office I hold, by principle and conviction, to relax none of these precautions. It is true that in some circumstances since the Reformation times may have changed; there are some who believe that we have grown so wise that we may exist in our own wisdom; but, as I believe, from the very nature of man, the same proneness to error continues; and I, at least, have no authority to say that the safeguards of our church should in any respect be abandoned. It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to trace the steps by which this error creeps in. The very error itself may, as I have said, be accompanied with the most devout feelings. It may be that the first wish is to see the service of God performed with all honour; but, by setting the heart too much on external appearances, the purity of God's worship is gradually corrupted, and an undue reverence attached to the things made by the hand of man. For these reasons, my decree will be to the following effect:—1. As to St. Paul's, that a faculty do issue to the incumbent and both the churchwardens to remove the credence table and the cross on or near the communion table; to take away all cloths at present used in the church for covering the communion table during Divine service, and to substitute one only covering for such purpose of silk or other decent stuff; that this decree do not issue for one fortnight from this present time; and that, in case neither the incumbent nor Mr. Horne declare in writing to the registrar his consent to take such faculty within the time limited, the faculty do issue to Mr. Westerton alone; that, if either the incumbent only, or Mr. Horne only, do so declare his consent, then that the faculty be issued to Mr. Westerton in conjunction with the party so declaring his consent. With respect to St. Barnabas, that a monition do issue to the churchwardens to remove the present structure of stone used as a communion-table, and to substitute therefor a moveable table of wood. To remove the credence table. To remove the cross on the chancel screen, and that on or near the present structure used as a communion-table. To take away all the cloths at present used in the church for covering the structure used as a communion-table during Divine service, and to substitute only one covering for such purpose, of silk or other decent stuff; and further, to remove any cover used at the time of the ministration of the sacrament, worked or embroidered with lace or otherwise ornamented, and to substitute a fair white linen cloth, without lace or embroidery or other ornament, to cover the communion table at the time of the ministration of the sacrament, and to cause the Ten Commandments to be set up on the east end of the church, in compliance with the terms of the canon."

The judgment occupied three hours in the delivery. On several occasions there were plaudits which the officers of the Court had great difficulty in repressing. An appeal was immediately lodged against the sentence in both cases.

More than twelve months passed over; and on Saturday last it was known that judgment would be pronounced in the Court of Arches; accordingly Drs. Phillimore, D.C.L., and Swaby appeared for the appellants, with Mr. Currie as Proctor, and Dr. Bayford, with Messrs. Jennings and Son as Proctors, for the respondents. The Learned Judge, Sir John Dodson, took his seat on the bench at eleven o'clock, and upon the case being called by the Registrar of the Court, proceeded immediately to deliver the judgment of the Court, occupying nearly four hours in its delivery.

Sir John Dodson, after detailing the circumstances under which the case had been brought before the Court, proceeded to say that the first point in the prayer was that the crosses should be removed from the altar and communion-table. It was generally admitted that crosses were ornaments; and the question would be whether such ornaments were allowed by Act of Parliament to be used in churches. The Learned Judge then proceeded to quote very largely from Acts of Parliament bearing upon the case, and remarked that the use of the cross at St. Paul's had been allowed by the Bishop of London, who consecrated the church while it was there. The Bishop, however, had since stated in a letter that he did not see the cross, a large altar-dish having been placed before it. It had also been alleged that the cross of St. Barnabas had been sanctioned by the Bishop. To prove this the Rev. Wm. Bennett, the minister of the church when it was consecrated, was examined, and he stated that he obtained the Bishop's sanction for the use of a fixed cross, the Bishop at the time stating that he considered the use of a moveable cross illegal. The fixed crosses were put up, and could be seen during the ceremony of consecration. It appeared, however, that since Mr. Liddell had been appointed to the incumbency, the Bishop had expressed his desire that the crosses should be removed, but added that he had no power of himself except by a proceeding in the Consistory Court. But it was of very little consequence whether the Bishop assented or not, for the Bishop's assent in such a matter could not render that legal which the law had declared illegal; and it was notorious that, for many years, crosses were not in general use in English churches. It was sought to be shown by the affidavit of Mr. Beresford Hope that there were eleven churches where crosses were in use. Two of these, however, were in Scotland, and he (the Learned Judge) suspected that the others had been erected recently and without authority. But when it was considered that there were in England 14,000 churches where crosses were not used, he thought, even if it was proved they were allowed in eleven, that should be regarded as of very little importance. The Learned Judge, having cited from a vast number of authorities, came to the conclusion that no Parliamentary authority at present existed for the use of crosses and therefore he must pronounce against the use of them in the present case. With regard to the altars, it appeared to him that they should always be of wood, and not of stone. At St. Barnabas the altar was of stone, and fixed, and therefore was illegal. At St. Paul's the altar was a wooden one, and capable of being removed. With regard to the credence tables, he did not feel justified in disagreeing with Dr. Lushington, and he, therefore, should pronounce against them. The Rubric provided for a "fair white linen cloth," to be covered over the communion-table during the sacrament, and he found no authority for the use of embroidery or any other adornment, and he should, therefore, pronounce against them. As to the brazen gates and candlesticks, he should make no order upon them, as he did not think they had been argued in the Court below. With regard to the Commandments, if they were ordered to be placed on the communion-table by law, they ought to be so placed, and he should direct them to be so. Altogether, he confirmed the judgment of the Court below, and condemned the appellants in costs.

Instead of profiting by somewhat severe experience, and remembering, however late in the day, that the better part of valour is discretion, Mr. Liddell, by an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, immediately prepared for a renewal of the exciting contest. While matters are at this important stage, and promising so much enjoyment to those who delight in religious feuds, our readers will no doubt feel much interest in the portraits and illustrations which appear on the previous page.

REV. MR. LIDDELL.

Mr. Liddell, as is pretty generally known, is a member of the aristocracy, and belongs to a family which has long flourished in the North of England. Aristocratic birth cannot, however, be pleaded in Mr. Liddell's case as an excuse for the sympathy he manifests with the forms and ceremonies of the middle ages, seeing that his progenitors do not appear to have emerged from obscurity till the opening of the seventeenth century. At that period, an alderman of Newcastle, bearing the name of Liddell, had the good fortune to become proprietor of Ravensworth Castle in the county of Durham, and the descendants of this worthy man, having fought pretty well for Charles I., rose into consideration and to the rank of baronets. After several generations had come and gone, one of these Liddells was, in 1821, created a peer, with the title of Lord Ravensworth. He had several sons, of whom the fifth is the Incumbent of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas.

The Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell is approaching the age of fifty. He was born in 1808, admitted to Holy Orders, became vicar of Barking, in Essex, and according to the "Peerage," married a daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Gerald Valerian Wellesley. While exercising clerical functions at Barking, Mr. Liddell, if we are correctly informed, was accused of a decided tendency to Puseyism, and his presentation to St. Paul's by the Bishop of London, consequently caused considerable discontent. The course taken by Mr. Liddell, since that time, has been such as to confirm the worst apprehensions; and the malecontents have found a champion to support their views in the person of Mr. Charles Westerton.

MR. WESTERTON.

The way in which Mr. Westerton found himself involved in a contest with Mr. Liddell, is worthy of a few words of explanation, because during this long struggle, he has frequently been charged by his opponents with being an over-optimistic person, and acting merely with a view to the gratification of an idle vanity or personal profit. One, however, who is well acquainted with all the circumstances of the case, has furnished us with the following account of the part taken by Mr. Westerton in the transactions.

"Mr. Westerton, for some years after establishing himself at Kew-bridge, carefully abstained from taking part in parish matters, feeling he had quite enough to do to work his own way in business. The exception was, that during the storm which led to the resignation of Mr. Bennett, he republished some of the letters relating to the controversy."

"Some time after Mr. Westerton received a letter, requesting his attendance at the vestry meeting, for the purpose of electing a parishioner's churchwarden. This letter, received from the warden whose year of office had expired, led Mr. Westerton to suppose his attendance was requested for the purpose of securing his re-election, and he went. This was the first time he had ever taken part in parochial proceedings, and he was much surprised to find an unusually large meeting in the school-room. Mr. Westmacott, the sculptor, took occasion to censure Mr. Liddell for having usurped, in the management of the temporalities of the church, a larger share than he was entitled to, and expressed his regret that he could not comply with a requisition which had been sent to him—in consequence of his known opposition to Mr. Liddell's practices—requesting him to fill the office of churchwarden. Several of the inhabitants now requested Mr. Westerton to propose Mr. Westmacott, which he did in the most earnest manner; and he rose three times to overcome that gentleman's justification of himself for declining to fill the office. At this stage of the proceedings, one of Mr. Liddell's most devoted supporters rose and said, that as there appeared a difficulty with Mr. Westmacott, he was sure the meeting could not do better than elect Mr. Westerton, who had shown so much public spirit in the matter. The parishioners loudly applauded the proposal, and Mr. Liddell buried his face in his hands to signify to his friends the blunder that had been committed. It was too late, however, and Mr. Liddell was under the necessity of announcing that Mr. Westerton was duly elected."

"This election, under circumstances so singular, took place at Easter, 1852; and for a long time afterwards, every opposition on the part of every servant and curate in the churches of St. Paul's and St. Barnabas, were exerted to shut up access to all infraction from that gentleman. It was not until Christmas, 1853, that Mr. Westerton opened the campaign with his first letter to the Bishop of Durham. Since that period Mr. Westerton has borne the brunt of this contest in the most resolute and self-sacrificing spirit."

OBITUARY.

HARRIS, THE REV. DR.—On the 21st inst., died the Rev. J. Harris, D.D., Principal of New College, St. John's Wood. Nearly a quarter of a century ago, Dr. Harris first came before the public as the author of a prize essay, entitled "Mammon," which took the religious world by surprise, and met with a measure of success which few theological works have attained. In a few years after the publication of "Mammon," he became one of the most popular men in the country, both as a preacher and an author; and that reputation he enjoyed till the last. We are not able to state Dr. Harris's exact age, but it is believed that he must have been upwards of fifty.

QUEENSBERRY, MARQUIS OF.—On the 19th inst., at Edinburgh, aged 76, died John Douglas, 6th Marquis of Queensberry. He was a younger son of Sir William Douglas, Bart., of Kilmahon, and succeeded his elder brother in the Marquisate in December, 1837. He married, in 1817, his cousin Sarah, daughter of J. S. Douglas, Esq., by whom he had one daughter, and an only son, Archibald, Viscount Drumlanrig, late Comptroller of the Household, who has now become 7th Marquis. His Lordship was born in 1818, and has represented the county of Dumfries, in the liberal interest, since 1847.

HART, SIR H.—On the 23rd inst., at Greenwich, aged 75, died Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Hart, K.C.H., and Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital. He was descended from the ancient family of Hart, of Lullingstone, Kent. He entered the navy in 1796, and served under Sir E. Pellew on the Indian station, and took part in the destruction of Grieste in 1807, and in the attack on Manilla. While flag-captain on the Indian station to the late Sir J. Gore, Sir Henry Hart was deputed to conduct an important negotiation with the Inam of Muscat, which he brought to a successful termination. For this service he received the honour of knighthood in 1836. Six years later he obtained a good service pension, and in 1845 was nominated to the post which he held at his death.

GARDINER, HON. GENERAL.—On the 15th inst., at Bishopscote, Devon, aged 82, died General the Hon. William Henry Gardiner, Colonel of the 10th Battalion of Royal Artillery. He entered the army in 1793, and took part in the unfortunate expedition to Walcheren and Flushing. He became a full general in 1854. He was the last surviving son of the first Lord Gardiner, celebrated Admiral, and uncle to the present peer. He married, in 1803, Eliza Lydia, daughter of Lieutenant-General W. Eyres, by whom he had five issue.

CHURCHILL, LORD A.—On the 16th inst., at Blenheim, died the Lord Almeric Spencer Churchill. He was a son of the present Duke of Marlborough, by his second Duchess, the Hon. Charlotte Augusta Flower, daughter of the fourth Viscount Ashbrook.

OCEAN HIGHWAYS.—The "New York Journal of Commerce," in an article advocating "lines," or paths, for steamers crossing the Atlantic, quotes Lieut. Maury's opinion that "Keep to the right" will be a rule as truly recognised on the sea as on land, if disaster is to be avoided. It says that, after laborious and patient investigation, it has been found that the adoption of steam lanes would probably shorten the average length of the voyage to the West, and not increase the average to the East to any considerable extent.

THE BARBARIC FESTIVALS OF INDIA.—Hook-swinging and other barbarous Hindu practices have been prohibited by the British Magistrate at Poona: the abolition of suttee and female infanticide has shown that abominable customs can with safety be prevented by the dominant race in India. The practice at Jejeeore, where a man yearly runs a sword through the fleshy part of his leg, draws it out, and sprinkles the blood on the entrance of the temple, has also been stopped. It was a privilege to perform this feat, accorded to a few individuals, who received large gifts for their endurance: they long ago said they would be glad to give up the practice if their incomes could be assured to them.

EXPENSIVE CONFIDENCE.—The Government at Sydney have come into the possession of nearly £10,000, by the confiscation of the property of a former prisoner of the Crown, named Cockeril, who for several years was a pawnbroker, but had recently been tried and convicted for knowingly receiving several articles of stolen plate. He was so confident of acquittal, that he did not make over his property, as is usual in such cases.

ANSWERS TO CHARADES IN OUR LAST NUMBER.

Page 407.—Pernacity—*Pernia a city.*

Page 414.—Pillage—*Pill-age.*

Page 415.—Crinoline—*Cry no line.*

The answers to the Pictorial Conundrums on page 445 will be given in our next Number.

* * PARTIES requiring back numbers of the "Illustrated Times," complete sets, are informed that of the majority of these, the quantity on hand is becoming rapidly exhausted, and that it is not intended to incur the expense of reprinting them. Such numbers as may be required should therefore be at once ordered of the respective agents.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1856.

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

In another place we have given such a slight historical sketch, our space permitted of the events of 1856. It has not been a year distinguished by the stir and glow of its predecessor, nor, indeed, by any feats in politics which could be expected to rival in interest the feats of war. Let us glance at the relative positions of the two years at their closes, and see whether we have much to congratulate ourselves on to-day.

This time twelvemonth we were all agog in England about the Esterhazy mission and the chances of peace. The "Illustrated Times" was pretty hopeful about the prospects of one, and content in urging people to entertain any really decent proposal. The prospect itself is now old enough to be familiar, and scarcely seems as beautiful on acquaintance as it did in prospect. The irritating intrigues which succeeded to it have just managed to disturb the whole subsequent period, and to leave us at present with a painful uneasiness about the future. But these intrigues were the result of the quick re-action of Russia after blows not heavy nor numerous enough. A better and longer war would not have allowed her to recover so soon. Last year we overrated our exploits and prospects; this year—with our army home—the details of the Czar's coronation fresh in memory, and the peppering of the French press to keep us awake to our faults,—we do not seem so cheerful or confident. Various social questions have taken ugly shapes of late—hangings and transportation are in every paper—the Income-tax agitation is brisk—the weather is dull. It is not so merry a Christmas, as far as the whole public aspect of it is concerned, as usual. Last year there was Macaulay's "History" to talk about; this year there is not a Christmas book. The convivial man is haunted by visions of the garotte; and the very holly of our jovial ancestors suggests the saying of that cynic, who observed that "the only use of holly" was "to make bird-time!" To be sure, we ought to fight against these gloomy impressions in the cause of the old Christmas tradition. But we are only dealing with them as actual phenomena, characteristic of the time, and must all admit that the "Old Year lies a-dying" in worse spirits than his predecessor.

What if this time twelvemonth there was a fair chance of prolonged war, renewed battles, and so forth? The Russian war had got hold of the popular heart, as a cause in which the public believed, and as a constant source of events of passionate interest. We had the possibility of great doings in the Baltic to speculate on—we expected brilliant news from the Valley of the Belbek; now we are in for an obscure and distant—and yet an expensive and perilous war—in Persia. What may it lead to, and how shall we stand for allies again, if it does lead to mischief? As for the expected disturbances in the heart of Europe itself, we do not see how they can be contemplated by anybody with satisfaction. In the question between Prussia and Switzerland, the sympathies of England may safely be assumed to be with the latter. The self-government and independence of Switzerland is at once part of the ancient system of Europe, and in harmony with modern ideas too. The claim of Prussia on Neuchâtel is, at best, part of that modern policy of despotism and spoliation which has uprooted so many nationalities. But, such as it is, it has been abrogated; and the Prussian Royalist rising which has occasioned all this excitement, stands on the same grounds as all modern "revolutions." If successful as the work of a majority, a revolution is now everywhere recognised; if unsuccessful, the penalty falls on the movers of it. The prisoners, therefore, for whom the King of Prussia threatens to make a war, are deserving of a fair trial, and entitled to no more. An invasion to compel more must therefore rank with other invasions made with personal objects, and be condemned by the voice of independent and honest men. It was with great regret that we read the article in which the "Moniteur" expressed the views of the French Government on this subject—an article giving only too much reason to apprehend that that Government is influenced by considerations of the most selfish and time-serving character. We have already mentioned this Prussian matter elsewhere; but its shadow is on the close of the year, and it demanded notice on the present occasion.

The more domestic anxieties above alluded to chiefly hinge on the question of crime and criminals. The last few months have much altered people's views of the ticket-of-leave system. There is now a decided leaning to a sterner treatment of criminals, and we hope the coming session will produce some plan for a recurrence to transportation. The present one meets no difficulty—not that of the convict himself, whom it sends back to society, at once unreformed and unprovided for,—and certainly not that of the State, which it exposes to being once more preyed upon by its felons, under a new and milder name. For some time we shall all be painfully puzzled by the complications of this question.

We feel that we have taken somewhat the darker side of affairs to discourse on to-day; but perhaps we shall enter on the New Year with a better preparation for its duties, by having first looked its difficulties fairly in the face.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Mr. Andrews, of Southampton, has resigned the office of Mayor, paying the customary fine which, however, is not enormous. There was no necessity for the resignation before the issue of the writ, but Mr. Andrews preferred to take this step at once, now that he has formally declared himself a candidate for the representation of the borough. The contest will be between Mr. Andrews and Mr. Woguelin—Sir William Codrington and Colonel Sligh have been solicited by the electors of Greenwich to put themselves in nomination for that long vacant and neglected borough.—Mr. A. N. Shaw, of Newhall, Fortrose, has issued an address to the electors of the Northern Brough, stating that it is his intention to offer himself as a candidate for their suffrages at the next general election, in opposition to the sitting member, Mr. Lamb. Mr. Shaw is a Liberal.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY AND THE ROYAL FAMILY left Osborne on Friday week for Windsor. The Court theatricals, which, in common with all the Royal festivities, were postponed in consequence of the death of her Majesty's half-brother, the Prince of Leiningen, will now, it is stated, take place on the 15th of January.

EARL GRANVILLE has been appointed Chancellor of the London University in succession to the Earl of Burlington, resigned.

M. DE LAURENCE's expedition to explore the White Nile will not for the present proceed beyond Assouan, on account of the advanced period of the season.

A MANUSCRIPT of about one hundred pages written by the philosopher Kant, and which has hitherto remained unknown, has just been discovered in Berlin. Attempts are about to be made in the Royal Library of that city to photograph and manuscripts.

AN IMMENSE LANDSLIDE recently occurred in a cutting on the Paris and Marseilles Railway, near the station of Tain. A watchman gave timely notice to a train which came to the spot immediately afterwards.

THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, in his last annual report, admits that "in many of those remarkable conflicts in which the American navy won its proudest trophies, it is well settled that the superiority of the calibre of our guns contributed very much to the successful overpowering of the formidable adversary."

THE HEALTH OF MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P., has considerably improved. The Hon. Gentleman intends proceeding from Algeria to France and Italy.

CHIEF JUSTICE CAMPBELL AND HIS SON are said to have attended the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's service a Sunday or two ago, and to have expressed an opinion that he "is doing great good, very great good!"

A NEW SYSTEM OF ESPIONAGE has just been established over the young students of Naples. The mind of the rising generation has been put under the care of "an ecclesiastical inspector," named Mr. Goodheart (Signor Buonocore), and a Secretary-General of the Prefecture of Police.

THE EARTHQUAKE AT CANEA in the Island of Candia, which occurred about a month ago, is computed to have destroyed more than ten thousand houses, shops, and public edifices; the number of persons killed and wounded was 1,122. Only 161 head of cattle were destroyed.

COUNTERFEIT CROWN PIECES, in imitation of those of George IV., dated 1822, are in circulation in Dublin, in considerable numbers. They are very cleverly executed, and escape detection unless minutely examined.

THE SARDINIAN GOVERNMENT has resolved, at its own cost, to make a cutting through Mount Cenis, in order to unite the Victor Emmanuel Railway with the French lines.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have issued a circular calling the attention of the officers of the fleet to the fact, that the mess expenses are greater than are sanctioned by the rules of the service, and ordering stringent preventative for the future.

A PAIR OF CURLING STONES are being cut from a block of granite which formed a portion of one of the fortifications of Sebastopol; they (the curling stones) are for Lord Panmure.

M. KOSUTH has been presented with the freedom of Hamilton, N.B.

IN SOME PARTS OF CHINA a great drought has occurred. Many persons have perished in consequence.

A YANKEE proposes to construct an immense water-wheel at Niagara Falls, and to lay down a permanent shaft through the State of New York. Those in want of power could then "belt" on ad libitum.

AN AWARD OF A THOUSAND POUNDS is to be recommended to Parliament to be voted to Mr. William Greener, Ashton New Town, Birmingham, for having been "the first to propose and anticipate the principle of expanding musket balls."

THE PANAMA RAILWAY will be much used in future for the transit of whale oil on its way from the South Sea fisheries to the Atlantic States, saving the long voyage round Cape Horn. A first experiment with six hundred barrels proved satisfactory.

MR. SIDNEY HERBERT, M.P., will become the owner of a considerable amount of property in Odessa, and some other parts of Southern Russia, through the death of Prince Woronzow, whose sister was the mother of the Right Hon. Gentleman.

MR. BUCHANAN, the President-elect, will, not improbably, marry the widow of the late President Polk, says a Baltimore paper.

M. DE LAMARTINE, whose recent illness, merely an attack of rheumatism, has been greatly exaggerated by the Brussels journals, has returned to Paris from his country house quite recovered.

ABOUT £500 HAVE BEEN SUBSCRIBED for a monument to the cavalry who fell in the East. Lord Lucan and Sir James Scarlett have each contributed £100.

A REVOLT HAS OCCURRED IN THE MILITARY SCHOOL OF ST. CYR (France), on account of the general in command having suppressed a custom which has long prevailed in the school among the old pupils, of playing tricks on the new comers.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON held his primary ordination on Monday morning, in St. Paul's Cathedral. The announcement that his Lordship would deliver a charge to the assembled clergy drew together a vast concourse of persons, and that part of the sacred edifice in which Divine service was performed was densely crowded.

HER MAJESTY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BOUNTY was distributed on Monday, by the Lord High Almoner, to upwards of two hundred poor and aged people.

THE MIDDLESEX REFORM ASSOCIATION was formally dissolved on Monday, from want of funds.

A DEAD SET AGAINST THE INCOME TAX appears to be in formation. Its reduction or abolition has been voted at public meetings in half the most important towns in England.

WHILE THE PRESIA WAS COMING TO HER MOORINGS IN THE MERSEY, on Saturday, the captain suddenly spun round, and one of the bars struck the second officer, Mr. Stanley, in the abdomen, producing injuries of which he died the following night.

THE SCHOONER SOVEREIGN, of Banff, got ashore a few days ago, on Cairnbrig Head, but was got off considerably damaged. The captain (Cravie) took the matter to heart, and hung himself in his cabin.

A MAN RECENTLY DIED FROM THE BITE OF A CAT. He was playing with the animal, when it seized one of his fingers with its teeth so tightly that he had great difficulty in shaking the cat off. At night, he became unwell; he afterwards went into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the member mortified, and he died.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR RICHARD DACRES, K.C.B., has arrived at Dublin Castle, and assumed command of the Royal Artillery in Ireland.

THE HULL AND GUTTENBURG STEAMER OSCAR has foundered, with all hands, in the North Sea. The steamer Prince of Wales, which was close by at the time, could not render any assistance.

SINCE THE RETURN OF KING OTHO OF GREECE, his Queen has abandoned political occupations, and resumed her usual avocations, which consist in agricultural experiments, archaeological researches, and embellishments of the capital.

DURING THE RUSSIAN WAR, a great quantity of provender and clothing was contributed by the people of Newark, among others, for the use of our suffering soldiers. It has recently been discovered that these contributions have never left the Town Hall!

MADAME NOTHOMB, wife of the Belgian Minister of Justice, had occasion to use a flask of ether lately; some of the liquid was spilt, took fire, and burnt her face severely, as well as her infant, whom she had in her arms. M. Nothomb, in attempting to extinguish the flames, was also much burnt.

THE INTRODUCTION OF HORSE-FLASH into the Parisian cuisine has led to a further innovation in the same direction: a society has been formed in Paris for promoting the use of asses' flesh as human food. The Society maintains that it is "the most delicious in existence," and strengthens itself with the reflection that Mæcenas and Cardinal Dupont, both distinguished gourmands, "were passionately fond of the flesh of young asses."

H.M.S. MONARCH, of the Pacific squadron, was recently struck by lightning. The ship was fitted with Sir Snow Harris's system of electrical conductors. The electrical discharge fell on the spindle of the main royal mast, and passing down the conductor went clear into the sea, with a tremendous crash. The vessel entirely escaped damage.

HER MAJESTY IS ABOUT TO CONFER THE MILITARY GRAND CROSS OF THE BATH upon his Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia, on the completion of his fiftieth year of military service, and Sir Colin Campbell has been selected for the honour of investing the Prince with the insignia of the order.

STREET NOMENCLATURE is now under the direction of the Board of Works. It is proposed that henceforth there shall be no two streets of one name. This arrangement, it is said, will facilitate the operations of the Post Office, and Mr. Rowland Hill gives it his approval.

THE RUINS OF A ROMAN THEATRE have been discovered at Triguères, near Montargis, in France; it is seventy yards long from the back of the pit to the stage, and sixty yards wide. It could have easily held 10,000 spectators. The interior of the theatre is not yet uncovered.

M. MICHELON, the celebrated comedian of the Théâtre Français, died on Thursday last, at his residence, Passy, in his seventy-first year. Michelon was, with Talma, Fleury, Mlle. Duchenois, Mars, and Georges, one of the glories of French stage. He was equally successful in tragedy and comedy.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

IN the old days, before Jullien was heard of, the masquerades of Vauxhall and the Lowther Rooms were drunken orgies, which owed their publicity to the delightful cuts of Onwhyn and the vivid descriptions of Pierce Egon. But ever since Jullien has had the direction of these entertainments, the riotous orgies have been done away with, and simple dullness, the dullness consequent upon our national education and mode of life, has succeeded. To the provincial young man, to the rising youth of seventeen or eighteen, who pants for "life," a masquerade is a fairy land, an enchanted ground, where hours are perpetually waiting to lavish smiles on him, the forthcomer; the real man about town knows it to be a collection of dreary people, some attempting to be amusing, others utterly despairing of being amused; a very few women rigged out in dirty shabby dresses hired from Jew costumiers, the better style of men in evening dress, the rest in every variety of morning costume. The *bal masque* of Monday evening was simply distinguished from others of previous date, by being more elegant, and perhaps a thought more dull. The house was beautifully decorated with pink and white gauze festoons, the company were quiet, sober, and decorous, the band of course excellent. In these features, the entertainment differed immensely from the Swine's Feast of Mr. Anderson which resulted in the destruction of Covent Garden; moreover, as if to inspire the public mind, M. Jullien had a treble array of firemen, conspicuously walking about the building, and many extra policemen were I believe engaged. I noticed fewer people in costume than usual; a distinguished half-Chinaman, half-Indian, in a huge straw umbrella, a band of melancholy individuals dressed as headies, calling themselves the "Disunited Bumbles," and supposed figuratively to typify the Board of Works, and a dreary monkey, were the most prominent. I missed the merry fellow who in his Robespierre dress, ten years ago, used to make such fun, and had such excellent French chaff at every one who addressed him, and on looking down among the crowd, I desisted him in plain evening dress, sauntering placidly along, an older and a staidier man. I love to behold various phases of life, and am prepared to state, that many times, in what we are pleased to term "society," I have seen worse conduct than ever came under my notice at a *bal masque*.

The accounts of the serious illness and even death of Mr. William Russell, which appeared in provincial newspapers, can now be pleasantly contradicted by the hero of the paragraph in person; Mr. Russell having returned to England in excellent health.

Mr. Thackeray is also once more in London, looking none the worse for his Scottish sojourning and hard work. The canny people of Glasgow have made for themselves a good harvest of the lecturer's brains, though he himself has come off but second best. There seems to have been some misunderstanding in the matter, Mr. Thackeray having, when he made the contract, understood that his lectures were to be given in the room where he formerly made his appearance, and which held about 600 people; whereas the hall in which the lectures really took place was nightly filled by about 3,000 people. Mr. Thackeray commences a course of lectures on the "Four Georges" at the Marylebone Institution, Portman Square, on the 30th inst.

By the death of Mr. Kenyon, an old gentleman who in his youth wrote a chip-in-porridge kind of poem called "A Rhymed Plea for Tolerance," and who, during his whole life, affected the society of literary people, some "poor scribblers" find themselves legatees to a large amount. Mr. and Mrs. Browning are heirs to £10,000, Barry Cornwall for £6,000, Dr. Southey for £8,000, and Mr. John Forster, whilom editor of the "Examiner," for £500.

Having outlived the necessary chaff consequent upon their advent to this country, the sun of favour is beginning to dawn upon the Royal family of Oude. Their agent, Major Bird, and Moulvie Mushir Ooddeen, were received by the Chairman and Deputy-Chairman of the East India Company. They were accompanied by their Parliamentary agent, Mr. T. K. Holmes, and by Mr. Low, of the house of Grindlay and Co. This is of course preliminary to a fair discussion of the claims advanced by the king.

The new year will witness the commencement of several serial tales by our best authors. In addition to those of Mr. Charles Reade in the "London Journal," and Mr. Shirley Brooks in the "Dublin University," of which I have already spoken, a new tale, called "The Dead Secret," by Mr. Wilkie Collins, will appear in "Household Words," and a romance of the prairies, with the attractive title of "The War Trail," by Captain Mayne Reid, in "Chambers's Journal."

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

I HAVE received the following excellent remarks on my week before last's review of "The Wreck of the Golden Mary."

"I quite concur in all your strictures upon the new Christmas Tale, edited by Dickens, and especially in your doubts whether the feeble stories introduced by way of 'beguilement,' could possibly have protracted the life of any human being for an instant."

"But there is one great fault in the narrative itself, which you have not noticed. Either the writer must have been assisted in his work by some 'very' freshwater sailor, or his printer must have played the very 'devil' with the MS. On the twenty-seventh day of the dreadful sufferings to which the people in the two boats were exposed, a 'sail' is suddenly desisted at an immense distance 'astera, to leeward of them!' Now, I am no much of a sailor, but I should have thought as the boats were 'driving for their lives before the wind,' that any vessel astern of them would have been to windward instead of to leeward; and this is confirmed by what afterwards happened; for the strange sail overhauled and passed the boats in the night, which would have been impossible if she had been to leeward, when the boats were scudding before the wind. Accordingly at daylight the next morning the ship is discovered a-head of them, and now, when she is really to leeward, nothing is said about it! But then, the vessel is 'all at once' 'hove up in the wind,' and the narrator says they were all at first 'at a loss to understand this' movement. But nothing could be more natural. The ship had clearly been pursuing the same track all night as the boat, and the moment she got sight of them in the morning, with their signals of distress hoisted, her captain did exactly what any sensible and humane officer would have done. He hove his ship up in the wind to lay to, and make sure of picking up the boats, as they drove towards him at the mercy of the wind."

"I do not wish to be hypercritical, but these are awkward blemishes in a tale of such thrilling nautical adventure! I am, dear Mr. Lounger, yours faithfully, C. W. H."

LAMARTINE'S APPEAL.—M. Lamartine has sent a circular to each of the many thousand subscribers to his monthly work, the "Cours Familier de Littérature," asking for a renewal of their subscriptions for the second year. He says:—"I regard my subscribers, sir, not as a public, but a family of friends. I am aware that Benevolence towards myself personally had more to do with your subscribing than any literary curiosity had. I am not humiliated by this, but rather proud of it, for I like cordial affection better than glory. If a wish to give me some useful assistance in my work really had any great share in inducing you to put down your subscription for 1856, I venture in person to ask you now frankly to continue it for 1857."

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY.—Mrs. Curgenvin, of Truro, was born many years before the end of the reign of King George II. Her husband, Captain Richard Curgenvin, R.N., obtained his rank of post captain for his services in Lord Rodney's celebrated action with Admiral Le Grasse in 1782; him his relict survived considerably more than half a century. The companions of her youth have of course all long since departed, and with them many of her junior relatives. Among the latter was her nephew the Rev. William Curgenvin, who for forty-six years was rector of Lamorran, and who reached the age of 78; him also she has several years outlived. But at length she also died, on the 7th inst., in her 106th year.—A still more extraordinary instance of longevity is furnished by the "Cambridge Chronicle." That journal records the death of James Mills, for many years resident in the parish of Kingston, at the advanced age of 130. He was well known in that neighborhood as a hawker of wicker baskets, sieves, &c. He lived to see his descendants unto the fifth generation, and possessed all his faculties up to within a short period of his death.

EPIDEMIC IN THE ANIMAL CREATION.—A fish epidemic is raging in Grand River, Michigan. The shores have been literally strewn with dead and dying fish—some of them of almost fabulous size. This is the second visitation. A few months since, all living, creeping things, by myriads, were cast dead upon the banks of the Grand River. Lizards of enormous size, and disgusting appearance, were piled in heaps where they were thrown by the eddying current. Rats, snakes, and every species of slimy, scaly monsters, shared the common fate.

ROCKET SHEDS AT WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—In consequence of the fatal explosion some months since in the rocket sheds of Woolwich Arsenal, the authorities at the War Office directed that the process of rocket-making should be removed from the Laboratory Square to sheds constructed on an improved plan in the Arsenal marshes. These sheds, twenty-four in number, have just been completed, and form a cluster of buildings denominated the Rocket Factory.

PANTOMIME PREPARATIONS.

Is there a merrier thought we have acent our boyhood's time, Than the days when we first went to see a Christmas pantomime; When lights and sprites gave new delights—when we in heart believed, That the Harlequin loved Columbine, and the Clown was hurt and grieved?

We knew not then the heavy toil the Pantaloon goes through, Before each scene we work all right, and every trick will "do." At Christmas time, the olden rhyme is altered; for they say That men and women then come out for boys and girls to play. Five weeks before, and sometimes more, from morn to dewy eve, Each pantomimist's hard at work, nor e'er the stage can leave. The Harlequin and Columbine are practising their dances, The Clown and Pantaloon rehearse their fun and mirthful fancies. The fairy bands go through their steps to fashion's daughters puzzling— They wear straw bonnets and stuff gowns, not golden wreaths and mullin. The painter's hard at work, and 'neath the magic of his brush, "The bowers of bliss perennial" grow, "the silver waters" gush.

'Tis Boxing night; the house is full.

The gallery is musical

With catcalls, shouts, and whistles;

The manager is full of care,

And while he rules, he feels aware

His throne is full of thistles.

There's not a sound, I think, one half

So cheery as the children's laugh

When first the Clown forth tumbles;

And when I see the Harlequin

Knock the Clown down, and make them grin,

A thought my spirit humbles—

If easy thus it be to make

Young hearts grow glad, and young sides shake,

How little labour on our part

Could make, at Christmas tide, each heart

Some way or other happy be,

And each one hope again to see

The merriment of Christmas time

The best scene in Life's pantomime.

After your long experience of my writing, sir, it will be scarcely necessary to tell you that the foregoing effusion is not mine. A poetically-minded friend has invaded the sanctity of my study, and insisted upon being allowed to commence this article after his own fashion. With my usual good temper I have succumbed; and after having read over his verses, I heartily wish I could subscribe to his rosate views. But, alas! I am of the prose, prose, and have seen too much of the stern realities of pantomimical preparations to allow his views on the subject to go forth without my own annotations. I have sat in the ghostly green-room, when on the surrounding benches I have seen the weird figures of the scene-painter, the property-man, the carpenter, and the musical-director, each with book in hand, and each jotting down the requisites of his own peculiar department, while the author reads forth his plot of the forthcoming Christmas festivity. I have been up in the painting-rooms, and seen the aforementioned scene-painter in a wonderful garb of distemper—spotted canvas or calico, painting himself, and giving rapid directions to his leprous-looking assistants, engaged in the preparation of the Bowers of Bliss or Stalactite Stunneries! Far away, beyond mortal view, have I stood in the flies, where the master-carpenter held despotic sway, where his rawest assistants were nailing up flats, and where the handiest of his band, small saw in hand, were cutting away at "scrutor-work," or following the outline so elaborately traced by the painter of "profile" woods and trees. I have fought my way into the property-room, shoving past gigantic masks with grotesque countenances, winks upon their faces, and tongues loling out at me derisively; through forests of spears and banners, climbing over enormous pies labelled "Scotch Rappee," and furnished with an entanglement of cords, by the aid of which the gigantic Highlander shall spring forth at the Harlequin's wand for the delectation of the children; past dirtily-gilt bugle-horns, wooden sirloins of beef, *pauvier maché* pewter pots filled with a tempting but mocking woollen froth; brown paper fowls and pies, and unnaturally green fruits, until, in the centre of this chaos, I have discovered the *genius loci*—the property-man proper, with upturned sleeves and naked arms curiously spangled with splashes of paint and bits of flying gold-leaf and tinsel. Thilladeno, that is not the word—obfuscated by a heavy, oppressive smell, my nose has led me to the wardrobe, where, on dusty shelves, lie the paraphernalia of heroes and the "toggerly" of "supers," where Hamlet's inky cloak reposes in close juxtaposition with Paul Pry's calimanters and Virginus's Roman toga; where the vagrant and insidious moth leapteth and sayeth "Ha! ha!" and where pale-faced men and women sit for hours under glaring gas and howl—or would, if they knew anything about it—the doleful chorus of "Stitch! stitch! stitch!"—there, round Schneider Princes, they sit! some besprinkling Harlequin's dazzling dress with spangles, some tacking the red wafer-like splashes on to the hitherto unsullied whiteness of the Clown's robe, others duly filleting the more sombre garb of the aged Pantaloon. The "supers" have seldom anything new—the white flannel garb of the Baker, the sooty vestments of the Sweep, the elaborate and utterly unrecognised toilette of the Swell, and the bodi-coat of the indignant Shopman, merely "basted" up the back-seam to admit of easy tearing, are all old friends, and have seen years of pantomime service.

Farther, have I stood on the stage, and seen the *dramatis personæ*, in the seedy dress of everyday life, arrayed, as to their feet, in buff "practising shoes," go through their most difficult feats in the "celestial" and most unmoved manner; have heard the Harlequin and Columbine arrange their "trips," not performing them, but merely hinting at them, such as "Pas Styrien—all right; that's over"—and heard the Clown and Pantaloon instruct each other in the *myst* of the pantomimic profession, thus: "Smugs baby—rally—take the slap—over with the bobby; and off H. H." What more shall I tell of subterranean regions, of traps, and "vampires," and "mazzarine (mezzonine) floors," of "sinks" and "rises," and "travellers," and "slots" of perspiring carpenters, and sleepy trapezes, of anxious lessees, and stage-managers full of strange oaths, and though not bearded like the pard, full of everything but modern instances? Of talent and experience, and forethought and lavish outlay, all brought to bear upon what the bilious-minded call "vanity," and the cheerful, "wholesome and innocent recreation?" Of scenic artists leaving their work at four A.M., to be again at the theatre at ten; of pantomimists standing inverted in their own apartments, and wondering why their spinal columns are less flexible than they were years ago; of all the popular times of the year brought together into one grand, glorious, comic overture; of a tremendous success; of a treasury full of money, all the result of Pantomimic Preparations? THE LOUNGER.

THE STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.—A circular memorandum has been issued, fixing the establishment of regiments of infantry, exclusive of those in India and depot battalions. With the eight service companies of each regiment there will be 1 lieutenant-colonel, 2 majors, 8 captains, 10 lieutenants, 6 ensigns, 6 staff, 47 sergeants, including schoolmaster, 21 drummers or buglers, 32 corporals, and 768 privates; and with the depot, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 ensigns, 20 sergeants, including a schoolmaster, 4 drummers or buglers, 16 corporals, and 184 privates; total, 1,400.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE.—Kuper and Co., of London, are to make one-half of the Atlantic cable; and Mr. Newall, of Gateshead, the other. It may assist the reader to a fair conception of the immensity of the task, if we state that each of the contractors will have to twist strands of wire, as an outer protection of the electric line itself, 25,000 miles in length—or long enough to go round the whole earth, and leave a sufficient length of wire for Archimedes to swing it round his head with, if he had but that standing-point which he coveted for his experiments.

GREYNA GREEN MARRIAGES.—At the end of the present month, Greytna-green and border marriages will be illegal. By an act of last session, it is provided that, after the 31st of December, no irregular marriage contracted in Scotland by declaration, acknowledgment, or ceremony, shall be valid, unless one of the parties had at the date thereof, his or her usual place of residence there, or had lived in Scotland for twenty-one days next preceding such marriage.





CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME.

NEW MUSIC.

My Christmas Music-Book. By E. F. RIMBAULT. London: Cramer, Beale, and Co.

CHRISTMAS is truly a stirring time; it wakes up the slumberings of the memory, and often gives to old acquaintances new forms and positions. Mr. Rimbault has metamorphosed "Christmas Day in the Morning," by the help of "The Rose Tree of Old England," "The Yule Log," and two other antiquated historical ingredients, into a very seasonable quadrille. The "Boar's Head," a similar process, is converted into a polka; the "Holly and Ivy" into a sprightly country-dance; and a fine poem of old George Withers lays the foundation of a smooth and easy duet. If, therefore, Christmas, with the appliances here enumerated, fail to move even an amateur to "tearful mirth," the fault cannot be attributed either to the cheer or "My Christmas Music-Book."

Christmas Chimes. Song. "What bells are those so soft and clear?" Composed by REYNOLDS RICHARDS. London: A. W. Hammond.

A STANZARE song, possessing merit strikingly superior to the generality of annual lays. It is likewise arranged as a duet for equal voices. In each case there is a freshness in the master-thought; while a subdued accompaniment helps to carry both auditor and singer most delightfully along. Where vocal talent is not at hand, the want is supplied by a conversion of the subject into a Christmas piece for the pianoforte; and in this form it cannot fail to elicit general approbation.

The Christmas Tree. Words by J. E. CARPENTER. Music by HENRY FAIRBANK. London: Duff and Hodgson.

POETS seem to luxuriate more especially at Christmas time than at any other. John Milton, it is true, was quiet for three-fourths of the year; he usually came out when the violets were in bloom, but they had no such fantastic Christmas trees in his severely puritanical age. Mr. Carpenter, for the nonce, adjoins primroses and summer flowers, and fires his muse with the magic tree, bestowing its fairy gems. There is nothing particularly striking in the music. It is composed in A major, and can be sung by young men and children, old men and maidens.

A Little Book of Christmas Carols. London: Cramer, Beale, and Co.

IN about twenty pages of substantial paper, neatly bound, and externally ornamented with a boar's head garlanded in the true Christmas fashion, we have sundry exalts of high antiquity handed down by the pen of Dr. Rimbault, a gentleman of great attainments, and whose name stamps the collection with the weight of genuineness and authority.

Six New Songs and a Duet from the Poems of LONGFELLOW. Set to music by M. W. BAILEY. London: Boosey and Sons.

HAD these songs been ushered into the world without the protection of a name, their own merit would ensure them a favourable reception. As the subjects are widely varied, so of course are they musically treated; but there is no namby-pambyism about any portion of them. They rarely travel beyond a moderate compass, but exact from the singer pathos and expression, rather than dash and brilliancy; and in this respect, they tend to satisfy the judgment, improve the taste, and delight the ear. Take for example No. 1, "The Reaper and the Flowers." No. 2, "Good Night," is a senerade full of the passion of an ardent lover who apostrophizes the object of his love in all the terms which endearment can invent. The genius of the musician is apparent at the outset; the charming process of modulation from the chord of G into B flat and back again, and from G to E flat, though not strictly speaking new, are not met with every day. The varied alternations of harmony throughout are in excellent keeping with the fluctuating emotions which have their home in the breast of the impassioned lover.

"This is the place: stand still and rest!" suitable for a baritone, the compass being from B natural to F, is a fresh and charming composition. The duet for two mezzo sopranos, "Trust her not," is full of point and excellent writing. The siren so frequently cautioned against for having soft eyes, hair of golden hue, and lips of treachery, is nevertheless not so bad after all, and in spite of such admonition, let the reader trust us in recommending not only the duet, but the volume itself, to their notice, feeling assuredly free from bringing reproach either upon its author or ourselves.

Hand-Book for the Oratorios. Handel's "Messiah," with an Accompaniment for the Organ or Pianoforte, from Mozart's score. By JOHN BISHOP, of Cheltenham. London: Cocks and Co.

FIFTY years ago a copy of this undying production rarely travelled out of the libraries of the rich or the closets of the learned. Its performance, in fact, was of comparatively rare occurrence, but seeing that we are rapidly progressing to the point of culmination, a necessity has sprung up for an individual perusal of the great masters. To meet the growing demand for good musical literature, the enterprising publisher, who would carve out a lasting name, puts his invention to the test. In this instance, Messrs. Cox and Co. issue a correct copy "for the people," and are content with a requital of two shillings! We come to a dead stand in attempting to unravel a problem of such marvellous intricacy.

Hand-Book for the Oratorios.—No. 2. The "Creation," by Haydn, with an accompaniment for the Organ or Pianoforte. By JOHN BISHOP, of Cheltenham. London: Cocks and Co.

WE need only say that this like the preceding oratorio, is very faithfully typed, and deserves to find a home in every musical circle, the wide creation round.

Engel's Piano-Harmonium School (English and French). London: Chappell and Co.

IN this very concise treatise, the author takes considerable pains in showing what the instrument and its capabilities are. He evidently understands his subject, and eschews every attempt at musical juggling. He admits of no royal road to eminence, and combats for steady advances in the right direction. Many difficulties are clearly seen to exist far more in imagination than reality; and the author, while checking the rash and presumptuous, gives every encouragement to the timid, if he but persevere. Any person, he affirms, possessing a soul for music, combined with sentiment and good taste, may soon climb "the steep ascent." Louis Engel farther points out the peculiar properties of the instrument. One of the great effects to be produced is that of making the harmonium sing while the pianoforte acts as a separate accompaniment. As a single instrument, there is not perhaps any, that judiciously used, can be rendered more effective for sacred purposes, especially in the domestic circle. The book, in addition to these suggestions, contains a list of studies and established pieces from the works of what are familiarly termed "the Great Masters." We shall recur again to this useful book.

Rimbault's Guide to the Six Guinen Harmonium. London: Chappell and Co.

THIS is a guide to the Alexandre harmonium, a small instrument of four octaves. To any person, even of small attainments, the author holds out cheering prospects; and taking the instructions and examples of secular music as laid down in this half-crown publication, we see little to differ about. There is a twin number to the above guide, which contains several standing chants, a few excellent hymn tunes, Jackson's "Te Deum in F," the pastoral symphony of Handel, "Dona nobis pacem" (Mozart), the celebrated eighth Gregorian chant, "Sicut erat," by Leonardo Leo; and a few other gems not unworthy the notice of the musician, be he amateur or otherwise.

Julien's Cadeau. London: Julien and Co.

HERE we have a full quire of light, pleasing, and highly-popular music, made so principally, by their recent performance at her Majesty's Theatre. It contains No. 5 of his well-known "Valse Sentimentale," called "Le Billet Dux;" a French quadrille, founded on popular French airs; and the "My Mary Ann Polka." It is unnecessary to enter at length into the merits of works which have already been stamped so indelibly by the public. Pianoforte players at all acquainted with M. Julien's music, will find no difficulty whatever in giving a ready illustration to the ideas shadowed out in black and white.

Come with me to Fairy Land. Song by J. W. CHERRY. London: Hammond. MR. CHERRY'S effusion is a bold, spirited, and inviting one. The melody is catching, and seems to loiter about the imagination as soon as he ear gains familiarity with the strain.

1. "Sound, Britons, Sound!" Written by CHARLES SHEARD, and composed by HENRY RUSSELL. London: "Musical Bouquet" Office.
2. "Loving I think on thee," with German and English words. Composed by CARL KREBS. Ibid.
3. "Far from our Mountains," with English and Italian words from Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore." Ibid.
4. *Les Bords du Rhin, Grand Valse Brillante.* Composed by FRANÇOIS HUNTER. Ibid.
5. *Balading Jeuneau Quodliten.* By W. H. MONTGOMERY. Ibid.
6. *Fantasia on the popular Scotch air, 'We're a' waulin' for the piano-forte.* By S. THALBERG. Ibid.

WE have selected the above from a large portfolio of new and revised publications recently issued from the above repositories. In these times of literary progress, music must not drag a slow length along; the fabulous pieces of bygone days gradually bow to the genius of invention and the spirit of enterprise, and although high figures marked on the title-page are no sure guarantee of the intrinsic worth within, neither are diminutive integers infallible tests of cheapness; often the reverse. From a careful perusal of the above three vocal and three instrumental pieces taken at random, we discover merit both in point of accuracy and the clearness with which every musical and typographical character is delineated; the marvel is, how at about one-fourth the usual price, such music can be produced. The first piece, "Sound, Britons, Sound," bears the secondary title of "The Song of Progress." It opens in a bold, martial style, not unlike other movements of the same popular composer, many of which stand a fair chance of being preserved along with the Tyrtan strains of Dibdin, Arne, and Purcell. The sentiment breathed by the poet will be readily caught up by the lover of freedom and the later of intolerance and wrong.

No. 2 (an *Adelheid*) is very popular in Germany, and when introduced into an English society, will become equally so here. It has B flat major for its key, and can be sung by any one with small vocal capabilities. The accompaniments are fresh and dowing.

No. 3, *Far from our Mountains, the Di Quella Pira* of Verdi's modern but popular opera, is entitled to notice for the clear, decided style in which it is brought out.

No. 4, a *Grande Valse Brillante* for the pianoforte, is just difficult enough to keep a young performer on the look-out to prevent stumbling. The exertion needed for the conquest will amply repay the labour, and leave a liberal surplus of gratification on hand.

No. 5 is a specimen of Mr. Montgomery's facile style of aiding the terpsichorean art.

No. 6, bearing the name of Thalberg, suggests difficulties not to be easily overcome. 'Tis truly said that his compositions are not for children to toy with; but he is not always shrouded by impenetrabilities; occasionally he stoops to comparative trifles, and this fantasia is one of them. It requires, however, some digital dexterity, in order to keep up the "nimble gait" necessary for a fair interpretation of the idea enunciated.

Autumn Fruits. Words by J. E. CARPENTER. Music by STEPHEN GLOVER. London: Duff and Hodgson.

AN excellent companion to the foregoing. Each has a highly illuminated title: the latter looks really luscious.

JUVENILE GIFT BOOKS.

JUDGING from the number of books for the young, which we noticed last week, and from those which have since poured in upon us, we have little hesitation in assuring juvenile readers that they are in no danger of lacking intellectual food for twelve months to come. What is more, the books seem adapted to juveniles of every age, from the child who has just learned to walk in the nursery, to young ladies and gentlemen, who, having long since got into their teens, are now figuring at evening parties, dreaming of balls, and speculating about matrimony. We will endeavour, by a brief glance at each of the pretty volumes before us, to give some idea of the variety of their contents.

Jessie Cameron. By Lady RACHEL BUTLER.

THOUGH the day has fortunately gone by when a book was enhanced in value by having the name of a person of rank on the title-page, this volume will no doubt be read with great pleasure. "Jessie Cameron" is a Highland story, and the heroine is one of those fair beings, about whom it is impossible to read without admiration. The Highland girl grows up everything that could be wished; exercises a favourable influence on all around her; and, after being jilted by a young farmer, returns good for evil, by risking her own life to save those of the man who had deceived her and the woman who had supplanted her. The story is, on the whole, interesting, and well calculated to convey salutary lessons to the young. It would doubtless have afforded general readers still more pleasure, had the authoress exhibited fewer of the prejudices of her class, as to the iniquity of chasing the laird's deer, and all that sort of thing.

Sidney Grey. By the Author of "Mia and Charlie." WE pass from the volume in which Lady Rachel Butler has given such charming pictures of Highland life, to "Sidney Grey," a tale of school days, by the author of "Mia and Charlie." Here we are introduced to a family of children, who are so presented as to attract the attention at once, and so dealt with as to increase our interest as we read on. "Sidney Grey" is decidedly one of the most interesting among the juvenile books we have met with this Christmas, and will no doubt meet with high favour among those for whose instruction and information it has been written. Every page exhibits such taste, talent, and delicacy of sentiment, as can hardly fail to charm.

The Ocean Child. By Mrs. HARRIET MYRTLE. THE Isle of Wight is the scene of the incidents that form the story of the "Ocean Child." On the occasion of a fearful storm, a little girl escapes the fate of her relatives, on their way from India, floats ashore, and grows up as the child of parents in a humble walk of life. Her girlhood, with all its early sorrows, and trials, and struggles, is traced in such a way as to interest young readers, and inspire them with noble aspirations; and the Ocean Child has become quite a favourite in her character of cottage maiden, when it turns out that she is a rich heiress. After this, Mrs. Myrtle's heroine signals her nobility of soul by building a home for fatherless children, and in various ways proves herself worthy of her good fortune. None of our young readers will peruse the "Ocean Child" without deriving pleasure and profit from its pages.

A Boy's Voyages and Adventures in the Merchant Service. Whaling and Fishing. By the Author of "A Boy's Voyage Round the World on Board a Man-of-War."

WE cannot help thinking that sea-life, with the prospect of such adventures as harpooning a hippopotamus, or lancing a sperm-whale, will continue to present to the juvenile imagination a temptation quite irresistible. The author of the works before us seems to have a different impression. "If," says he, "anything I have written on this subject shall induce a young man, launching into life, to make a sensible choice of evils, by looking elsewhere than to the sea for the adventurous existence which his spirit requires, I shall be rewarded."

With this view, the author, in the first of these volumes, aims at drawing an intelligible picture of a merchant seaman's life. The shadows as well as the lights are shown, and the book is occupied with descriptions of adventures in various parts of the world.

"Whaling and Fishing" completes the author's story of life at sea, and gives a plain commonsense picture of that, about which a false romance throws so many charms.

Both of these books are agreeably illustrated, and will certainly have one beneficial effect—that of entertaining and delighting boy readers.

The Adventures of a Cat. By ALFRED ELWES. THIS is a most amusing little book in its way, narrating the adventures of a cat from kittenhood, and having the advantage of eight illustrations by Mr. Harrison Weir. The story is most cleverly written, and we can recommend it as well adapted to interest the inmates of the nursery.

The Book of British Animals. Illustrated by Harrison Weir. A GLANCE at the contents of this volume is sufficient to make it a favourite in quarters where it is intended to please. The illustrations of Mr. Harrison Weir are beautiful; and the descriptions and anecdotes are in every respect so appropriate, that we have no doubt of its being popular.

THEATRICALS FOR THE DRAWING-ROOM. * BOXING-DAY.

A Force to be acted during the Christmas Holidays.

CHARACTERS.

MR. JAGGERS. MR. HOLLY. MRS. JAGGERS. MRS. HOLLY. MARY.

THE SCENE represents the drawing room in Mr. Jaggery's house. A fire is burning in the grate. Over the chimney glass and about the picture-frames are stuck pieces of holly and other evergreens.

MR. JAGGERS discovered in an easy chair, drawn close to the fire, reading the "Times" newspaper.

JAG. Nothing puts me in such a passion as this cant about "merry Christmas." Ha, ha! what a merry thing to be driven into the workhouse, isn't it? It only comes once a year, thank Heaven! for I hate it as if I had been born a turkey. Gracious! (reads) "Handsome gifts for Christmas.—Cashmere shawls from 16 to 200 guineas." With such advertisements as these, it should be death to teach women to read. Mercy on me! (comes forward, and reads) "Christmas hamper, a bottle of brandy, rum, two of gin, three of port, and four of sherry." The man who could encourage such drunkenness, must be a soda water manufacturer (throws down the paper). And what does all this present-making lead to?—the destruction of the peace of families. All my household have entered into a conspiracy to get Christmas-boxes out of me. It is a week since my wife contradicted me! My eldest daughter has ceased to breakfast in my curl-papers; and my youngest child has been attempting to extort money from me under the pretence of repeating Mrs. Barbauld's amiable poetry. Let me drive these sad thoughts from me. (Reads) "Court of Common Pleas—

Enter MARY. MARY (smiling). The postman is down stairs, sir.

JAG. If it's a paid letter, take it, and let him go.

MARY. He's come for a Christmas-box, sir.

JAG. Give him sixpence, and tell him if he does not bring my letters earlier, I'll have him discharged! (Exit MARY.) There's another sixpence gone. If this continues, Mrs. Jaggery will have to go without her present. (Reads) "Mr. Boshey moved for a rule."

Re-enter MARY.

MARY (smiling). The waits have called for their Christmas-box, sir.

JAG. (in agony). Give them sixpence; (with energy) but mind that villain who plays the trumpet is to have none of it—he's an asthmatic scoundrel. (Exit MARY.) The chances of Mrs. Jaggery getting a present are on the decrease. (Reads) "Lord Chief Justice—Take a rule, Mr. Boshey. Mr. Boshey—With costs my Lord?"

Re-enter MARY.

MARY. The beadle, sir, is down stairs.

JAG. (faintly). Good gracious! Give him sixpence. I voted for that man, and this is the return he makes! I'm certain he must be a confirmed drunkard. (Exit MARY.) Mrs. Jaggery must wait until next year for her present. (Reads) "Lord Chief Justice—With costs, Mr. Boshey. Mr. Boshey—Thank you, my Lord!" (Speaking) I don't understand these law reports, but I'll be bound there was swindling somewhere.

Re-enter MARY.

MARY. Oh! please, sir, here's the milkman, the turncock, the lamp-lighter, the original dustman, and the sweep from over the way, come for their Christmas-boxes.

JAG. (throwing away his paper). Tell them the family's out of town. (Jumping up) Where's my stick, I'll give them something.

[Exit MARY, quickly.]

JAG. (pacing the room). There! now Mrs. Jaggery can't have her present. That's settled! She has made me admire that confounded bracelet whenever we've been down Regent Street, with the most innocent assurance. (Fings himself into the arm-chair.)

Enter HOLLY.

HOLLY (aside). Mrs. Holly did nothing but talk in her sleep last night about Christmas-boxes. She will bother my life out if I don't give her one. I have spent all my money. I wonder if Jaggery can lend me any.

JAG. (to himself). Its disgusting to see how women love jewellery. I believe they only marry so as to get a gold ring.

HOLLY (to himself). Deuce take the Christmas-boxes, say I; and he may take Mrs. Holly along with them if he likes.

JAG. (to himself). I'd no business to go into the shop with her. I shall never forget the horrible expression of her eyes, when she tried that bracelet on. Now I offered her one of those delicious maslin dresses at 3s. 6d. "distingue." But up flew her nose, as if I'd offered her a black draught.

HOLLY (coming forward). Ah! Jaggery, how are you? (shakes his hand violently). How excessively well you're looking.

JAG. (suddenly—aside). These compliments! Can Holly be fishing for a Christmas-box?

HOLLY. I'm glad I found you alone. The fact is, I am sadly in want of £20.

JAG. (aside). As if everybody wasn't always sadly in want of £20! I must choke him off.

HOLLY. Just imagine! A friend of mine—a Spaniard—they're awful gamblers—has lost at cards, and, confound him, he wants me to lend him £20. You see, I don't well know how to refuse him.

JAG. Don't you? I'll tell you. Say you'll see him shot first.

HOLLY. I thought that perhaps you might—

JAG. Ah! I wish I could; but you see, a friend of mine, one of my earliest and best friends, a Swede, has lost his wife—they are dreadful fellows for losing their wives—and he wants £20 to bury her.

HOLLY. How annoying! If I refuse this suspicious Portuguese—

JAG. You said he was a Spaniard!

HOLLY. Did I? Well, Spain and Portugal are very much alike. I want the money dreadfully. I can't even afford to give my wife a Christmas present.

JAG. My dear sir, that's just my case. I'm sure I think of Mrs. Jaggery before every one. (Aside) She takes care of that; (aloud) but I promised this unfortunate Swiss—

HOLLY (interrupting him). Swiss! He was a Swede just now.

JAG. Yes, on his mother's side, Holly.

HOLLY. Jaggery, look me in the face. Your nose quivers.

JAG. Let my nose alone, Holly.

HOLLY. Be candid, Jaggery. Is your Swede authentic?

JAG. He is twin brother to your Spaniard. The fact is, I have not got £20 to spare. If I had, Mrs. Jaggery would soon seize upon it for her Christmas-box.

HOLLY. What shall I do? Mrs. Holly is a terrible woman, and always has hysterics just as we are sitting down to dinner.

JAG. I've no patience with Mrs. Jaggery. She knows, as well as I do, that our whist club begins at Christmas. I can't go there without money.

HOLLY. Mrs. Holly never looked well in velvet. I am not going to leave myself without a sixpence to please her. What does she think I brought her up to London for, unless it was to enjoy myself.

Enter MARY.

MARY. (blandly) If you please, sir—

JAG. Don't bother me.

MARY. The young man from the baker's, sir.

JAG. I found a big cricket in the bread. Tell the scoundrel to be off.

MARY. Mr. William is no scoundrel, sir, even if he does drive a fancy bread-cart.

JAG. Hold your tongue, you hussy.

* The costumes and properties required for acting this farce are simple in character, and are easily obtained. The gentlemen should make their dresses contrast as much as possible. Perhaps Jaggery had better wear spectacles, and powder his hair with the flour-dredger. He may have a brooch in his shirt-front, and a collar up to his ears, and also very large shoes, with bows. Holly should have a country air about his dress. A shooting jacket, tight trousers, and lace-up boots, will do for him if he colours his face highly with plate rouge to denote health. The only property difficult to obtain is the trombone, but if this obstacle is insurmountable, it may be waved for a violin or a guitar. Everybody knows that a desk-ruler makes a very useful flure, and as it affords gentlemen an excellent opportunity for showing off their powers of imitation, surely no performer of talent would find fault with the unreal appearance of the instrument.

MARY. I'm no lassy, sir. That's not the way to speak to a poor girl, whose aunt's granddaddy kept a servant of his own.

JAG. Leave the room. *Exit MARY.* Thank goodness, that girl won't expect a Christmas present. I only wish Mrs. Jaggers would give me a similar chance, but catch her.

HOLLY. I've got an idea! Suppose we forced our wives to quarrel with us—dyesie?

Enter MARY. It's not a bad notion. If the dinners get bad, I'm sure of the cash, couldn't I? How shall we set about it? Ah! it's trying to catch some lassy's snuff-box. *Exit MARY.* No.

I'm dying to begin the quarrel. What do you say to my breaking one of your prettier pieces?

JAG. *Asphodelus.* What is there my wife dislikes very much? By Jove, sir, I'll be a monster. No; the worst of it is, they always disagree with me.

HOLLY. I'd sleep with all the windows open if I thought it would not bring down my husband.

JAG. There is one blessing: Mrs. Jaggers is a rare one to quarrel. She has the spirit of a cock-pole.

HOLLY. And Mrs. Holly is a powder magazine in petticoats.

JAG. *Asphodelus.* I have it! *Runs to the bell.*

HOLLY. Where? Law? when?

Enter MARY.

JAG. Go up stairs to the loft, and bring me down my trundle.

HOLLY. I never thought of that. *To MARY.* Bring me no flute at the same time.

JAG. I gave up practising because it worried her, as hissing does a bulldog. Oh, Mrs. Jaggers, we'd see if music-hall charms to rouse your savage brain.

HOLLY. The last time I played the flute, Mrs. Holly nearly fainted. *Exit MARY.* Who knows? perhaps she might go home to her mother.

Enter Mrs. JAGGERS.

Mrs. J. *sweetly.* Good morning, my love. *To HOLLY.* I was looking for you, Mr. Holly. Your wife wishes to see you immediately. *To JAG.* You know, my dearest, we are going to a ball next Wednesday.

JAG. What, madam? another ball? If you were a green gaffer, and beat carpets, you couldn't attend more evening parties than you do. *Exit.* How she carries me!

Mrs. J. You're a naughty, wily boy, but I'll! But really we want to consult our dear husbands about our objects. Your wife, Mr. Holly, is waiting for you. She is never so delicate as when following your excellent taste.

HOLLY. Oh, Madam! *Exit.* If she did, how she would hate velvet dresses!

JAG. *Asphodelus.* I feel that bracelet buzzing in my ears like a wasp.

HOLLY *aside.* That velvet dress covers me like a pall.

JAG. *Asphodelus.* Holly! Be a man! don't give way.

HOLLY *aside to JAG.* Death rather than slavery! *Exit.*

Mrs. J. Now I must ask my dear husband about what kind of dress I shall put on.

JAG. *sarcastically.* How can I tell? I'm a barbarian, a Goth; you have told me so yourself a thousand times.

Mrs. J. I have, my pet? Oh, you naughty, wicked fibber, to say so. You! who might cut a look of rascals.

JAG. Madam, I tell you, you said I was a Goth the day when I remarked I didn't like short sleeves.

Mrs. J. Ah, I remember, you said short sleeves never looked well, unless there was a nice bracelet on the wrist.

JAG. *triumphantly.* I dery the bracelet, madam. *Asphodelus.* I'll try to smoke her off. *Takes a cigar off the mantle-piece.*

Mrs. J. You are not going to smoke in this room, my cherub?

JAG. Yes, I am, my tender lamb. *Lights cigar.*

Mrs. J. *aside.* How provoking he is.

JAG. *smoking violently—aside.* This ought to do it; it's making me feel queer.

Mrs. J. There, sit down in the arm chair and enjoy your cigar. *Asphodelus.* He shall pay dearly for this.

JAG. *aside.* She doesn't say a word against smoke. Why doesn't that girl, Mary, bring the trombone? By heavens, I shall be ill. I feel as if I was in a swing.

Enter MARY, who gives the trombone to Jaggers, and exit, carrying a flute.

JAG. *throning down cigar and taking the trombone.* Is there any tune that you prefer, Mrs. Jaggers?

Mrs. J. For Heaven's sake remember there are invalids next door.

JAG. They shall have a well varied entertainment. Invalids are generally recommended change of air. *Begins playing "God Save the Queen."*

Mrs. J. My life! do for merry's sake. *Rising.* How dare you, sir? *Mrs. Jaggers jugs her husband's elbow, and caresses him to make a false note.*

JAG. Don't! you are spoiling the melody. *He commences "God save the Queen" again, but after a few notes becomes exhausted, and leaves off.*

The air is continued by a flute behind the scenes. *Asphodelus.* Ah, I see, Holly is practising too.

Mrs. J. So it appears that both of you are musicians. *In a kind tone.* If it amuses you, I think I can accustom myself to it, my poppet.

JAG. Can you? *Produces a very loud note.*

Mrs. J. That's very clever. I had no idea the trombone was so sweet an instrument. *Flute heard behind.* I prefer it immensely to the flute. *Sits down and begins caressing him.* Go on, my dear.

JAG. *aside.* Go on! go on! I haven't breath enough left to puff out a cancle. My ill wind won't blow me any luck.

Enter Mrs. HOLLY caressing Mr. HOLLY, who has a flute in his hand.

Mrs. H. *to Mrs. J.* Does not my husband play beautifully on the flute? Oh, it makes his lips look so nice. *The two ladies retire and talk to each other.*

JAG. *out of breath—aside to Holly.* Dreadful failure. My wife suffers with the resignation of a skinned cat—seems to like the torture. We must think of some other plan.

HOLLY *aside.* I never heard anything so offensive as Mrs. Holly's servile flattery.

Mrs. J. *aside to Mrs. H.* This is the moment to offer them our presents. My cravat is quite ready. *Shows it.*

Mrs. H. *aside.* Oh! wait for me; my braces are not yet finished. *Aloud.* What are you gentlemen saying? I feel quite jealous.

JAG. Jealous! *Asphodelus.* I've hit upon a scheme. Send your wife away.

HOLLY *to Mrs. H.* My dear, I wish to speak to Mr. Jaggers for a few minutes in private—about—about—

Mrs. H. We will leave you, dearest. *Asphodelus.* Come along, come along. There is quite a velvet look in his eyes.

Exit Mrs. H. and Mrs. J. leaving Holly and Jaggers.

JAG. *mysteriously.* Holly! can you trust me?

HOLLY. Jaggers, I would trust you in the ceilings of the Bank of England with an empty carpet-bag.

JAG. *aside.* He doesn't keep an account there. *Aloud.* I am not talking, Holly, of valuables and treasures—I am talking of our wives. Have you faith in Mrs. Holly?

HOLLY. My wife! I would trust her with Charles the Second.

JAG. Charles the Second is dead, Holly.

HOLLY. Jaggers, I can't help that; it's not my fault.

Enter Mrs. J. and Mrs. H. and look into the room.

Mrs. J. *aside.* I am sure they are talking about the presents. I must listen.

JAG. This is my plan. You must pretend to make love to my wife. It will be tedious. I know, my dear friend, but I shall be suffering with you, for I will make love to yours.

Mrs. J. *aside.* The monsters!

HOLLY. But where is the good of this?

JAG. Don't you see? I had at the feet of Mrs. Holly; you fall at the feet of Mrs. Jaggers. I catch you at it, and you catch me at it. We are both jealous. A violent scene ensues. You break a cheap cup, I smash a trumpery saucer. I exclaim, "Such conduct, when I was on the point of

buying you that magnificent bracelet!" You do the same thing about the velvet dress. Then all is over, and no more Christmas-boxes till next year.

HOLLY. Woefully complete!

JAG. A few days afterwards, everything will be explained. You were money at the feet of my wife to pick up a pin, and I was hunting for a fourpenny piece. But Christmas will have passed, and we save our money.

Mrs. H. *shaking through door—aside.* Very well, my gentlemen; then it's a battle between us.

JAG. But we must agree upon the signal for surprising each other. *Complacently.* Let me see. *Holly sees each.* Just the very thing. Directly you see Mrs. Jaggers's feet, begin to sneeze violently.

HOLLY. But Jaggers! I can't sneeze?

JAG. *holding a snuff-box from a mantle-piece.* Here's some snuff; take a pinch. *They both take snuff.* Now, I'll wait here, listening; you go to my wife.

HOLLY. Hadn't you better begin?

JAG. No, no! I thought of the plan.

HOLLY. But don't you see I might have thought of it just as well?

JAG. Let us begin together, then. Whosoever's wife comes in first, the other goes out of the room.

Enter Mrs. HOLLY.

Mrs. H. *aside.* You will find us quite prepared for the encounter.

JAG. *aside to Holly.* Your wife! Leave me.

HOLLY *aside.* My handkerchief must be in the other room. *Asphodelus.* I'll find Mrs. Jaggers. Lay it on thick. *Exit.*

Mrs. H. *aside.* How remarkably ingenious! Ha! ha!

JAG. *triumphantly.* I am delighted, madam—

Mrs. H. *aside.* He is not long settling to work.

JAG. *aside.* What can I say to her? Let me see. How did I begin it with Mrs. Jaggers? Oh! I remember; she began it with me. *Sneezes, with passion.* Oh, madam—

Mrs. H. *aside.* Good heavens! have you hurt your self?

JAG. No, madam! *putting his hand to his head.* But I burn here.

Mrs. H. Take a little magnesia; it is the best thing for the heartburn.

JAG. You cannot tell how you frighten me.

Mrs. H. *aside.* Am I so very frightful, then?

Mrs. H. Frightful! Dear me, no; but—

JAG. What, madam, is it possible you can do me the honour of considering me a dangerous man?

Mrs. H. You can be so agreeable when you choose.

JAG. *aside.* Oh! *Asphodelus.* How much biter this is than Mrs. Jaggers's plan of calling me a brute. *Curts his hair.*

Mrs. H. What are you thinking of?

JAG. *with passion.* Ask me rather of whom I am thinking—of whom I must always think! I am thinking of a lovely and amiable woman!

Mrs. H. Of course, you mean Mrs. Jaggers.

JAG. I said a lovely and amiable woman. I will not name her!

Mrs. H. Oh, Jaggers!

JAG. *aside.* She calls me Jaggers! *Aloud.* I have not named her. *Types her.*

Mrs. H. Don't look at me in that manner; you might be struck so.

My hair is untidy, and I look frightful.

JAG. Frightful! Could Venus be frightful? No, not if she tried. *Asphodelus.* What a nice little woman! *Aloud.* Listen to me, madam.

Your charms have dazzled me until I feel my eyes water.

Mrs. H. *rising.* Oh, Edward!

JAG. *overcome—aside.* She calls me Edward. *Aloud.* Would that Holly were deaf and Mrs. Jaggers no more!

Mrs. H. *who has finished her work.* At last these braces are finished. I wonder if they will be long enough. Would you have the kindness to lend me your shoulders for an instant?

JAG. *falling on his knees.* My shoulders—my heart—all is at your service! *Mrs. H. puts the braces on him.* Oh, you cherub!

Strokes her hair.

Mrs. H. Be quiet, Mr. Jaggers. *Pricks him with her needle.* *Asphodelus.* He's going too far.

JAG. How can I be quiet when *pauses, as if about to sneeze*—when *pauses.* *Asphodelus.* Confound the snuff! *Aloud.* Oh, my angel! my adored! *Pauses.* Listen to the voice of love *sneezes violently.* *Asphodelus.* Gracious goodness! The signal! *Holly is heard to sneeze loudly behind the scenes.* Holly's at it too. I can't go to him. The moments are too precious now.

Mrs. H. *pushing JAGGERS backwards.* Rise, sir; pray, rise. *Both JAGGERS and HOLLY sneeze.* Let me go, let me go; somebody's coming.

Exit Mrs. H. as HOLLY enters wearing the cravat which Mrs. Jaggers has shown in the previous scene.

HOLLY *aside.* That snuff spoiled all. *To Jaggers.* Are you deaf, Jaggers?

JAG. Deaf! Do you wear cotton in your ears? *Sneezes again.*

HOLLY. I've done nothing but sneeze. *Sneezes again.* Didn't you hear me?

JAG. How could I, since you didn't hear me? I made the windows rattle. Where did you get that cravat from?

HOLLY. Do you fancy I stole it, Jaggers? *Asphodelus.* Never will I betray that lovely woman. *Aloud.* Do you usually wear your braces outside your coat?

JAG. Braces? Ah, yes! It was so cold stopping on one's knees, I was obliged to slip on something. And my wife—I suppose she was in a dreadful temper?

HOLLY. Said I was no gentleman fifteen times. How did Mrs. Holly behave herself?

JAG. Threatened to call for help, because I merely observed that her cheeks were more blooming than lobsters.

HOLLY. Then our scheme has failed. We had better begin again, hadn't we?

JAG. Perhaps we may be more successful the second time. Now, do try and sneeze louder; jerk it out more. It's my turn to look for Mrs. Holly. You promise not to come till I sneeze. *Holly assents.* *Asphodelus.* As he is going out! Then we shall never see each other again. *Exit.*

HOLLY. That sweet woman is thrown away on Jaggers. What eyes! Her glance went through my heart like a skewer.

Enter Mrs. JAGGERS.

Mrs. J. *aside.* Here is my bracelet. I thought he wasn't far off.

HOLLY *aside.* The angel has followed me. She walks like a goddess! What a noble carriage! If she had obtained it from Long Acre, it could not be more springy. *Aloud.* Madam, it is exactly thirteen minutes and eight seconds since we parted, for I have been counting the tedious moments.

Mrs. J. Hush! should any one hear you, I am a lost woman. You must think no more of this nonsense. I spoke of my husband in a moment of spite. *Indignantly.* That he should have refused me a trumpery bracelet!

HOLLY. To his wife, too! the beloved of his friend's bosom!

Mrs. J. I would not accept it now! a foolish twenty pounds!

HOLLY *indignantly.* Oh, it is too much!

Mrs. J. Too much? *astonished.* You cannot think it dear?

HOLLY. Dear? oh, no! I didn't mean that! Describe this bracelet to me, that I may instantly lay it at your feet, and teach Jaggers the meanness of his conduct.

Mrs. J. Why tempt me, cruel man! O do not ask me to describe it to you. I should never forgive myself if I told you it was an emerald surrounded by diamonds!

HOLLY *aside.* Sweet innocent! *Aloud.* It is useless to refuse me. You say the jeweller lives in—

Mrs. J. Heavens! what have I done? Surely I have not told you that it was at No. 693, Regent Street? Oh, why did you make me speak, cruel, but talented man?

HOLLY *triumphantly.* I fly in the swiftest cab, on the wings of love. *Snatching up his hat.* In a few minutes that emerald surrounded by diamonds shall encircle your invaluable wrist. *Exit.*

Mrs. J. *laughing.* I wonder if Mrs. Holly has been equally successful.

Enter JAGGERS whistling, and not seeing his wife, who seats herself.

JAG. Holly is a brute, with a hard-boiled egg for a heart. Let me remember what she said. The colour dark ruby, and it must be twelve breadths round the skirt, or she feels cramped. Pretty puss!

Mrs. Jaggers coughs. He turns round, sees her, and then creeps out on tiptoe.

Mrs. J. Now, I do hope Mr. Jaggers will not go buying her a trumpery, cotton-backed thing. He can be so mean when he goes out shopping.

Enter Mrs. HOLLY.

Mrs. H. *laughing.* Oh, my dear, your husband is such a charming man. But, first of all, how do you feel? contented?

Mrs. J. I feel as if my heart was repining on jeweller's cotton. But really you should take care of Mr. Holly.

Enter MARY.

MARY. If you please, mum, I've come to give notice. Of course, you wouldn't like to keep a lassy in your house; so this day month, please, mum.

Mrs. J. What do you mean?

MARY. Especially a lassy, mum, as keeps company with a scoundrel, which Mr. William is not, but as honest a baker's boy as ever rang a bell.

Mrs. J. Bless the girl! explain yourself.

MARY. There's nothing to explain, mum, only servants have their feelings as well as masters, and ten pound a year don't include abuse, if it do tea, beer, and sugar.

Mrs. J. Who has abused you?

MARY. Why, master, mum, worse than if he'd found a man in the kitchen.

Mrs. H. *aside to Mrs. J.* Don't you understand this? The Christmas-boxes. The silly girl has fallen into the trap.

Mrs. J. *aside.* Poor thing! and without getting the toasted cheese. *To MARY.* Mr. Jaggers was only joking. There is a Christmas-box to make peace between you.

MARY. *taking the money.* O, thank you, mum. I'm not one to refuse the blessings of peace, especially when it's a five shilling one. *Asphodelus.* As she is going out! Who knows, perhaps he may abuse me again? With his bad digestion, and that cold pork for dinner, he may call me a toad before night. *Exit.*

Mrs. J. Let me see!—how am I to deduct that five shillings out of the housekeeping?

Mrs. H. O, say it was for soft-soap used in the kitchen.

Enter MARY with a parcel.

MARY. I was to have half-a-crown, mum, if I gave this parcel to you without her *pointing to Mrs. Holly* seeing me.

Mrs. J. Then you had better go and get it at once. *Opening the parcel.* O, here it is. Look at it. Isn't it beautiful—my heart is all in a flutter. Come and see me try it on.

MARY. I'll be after my half-crown before I'm found out. *Runs to the door, and bumps against Jaggers, who is entering.*

JAG. Bless the girl, what is she about? *Puts his handkerchief to his nose.*

MARY. *aside.* That's my luck! instead of calling me names, she's blessing me. It's a clean loss of five shillings. *Exit.*

JAG. I've managed it beautifully. I crept up into her dressing-room and hid the parcel on her table. I put the bill inside, so that she might see to what a fearful amount I loved her. Egad! £10 19s. is a good sum to pay for a heart, especially when you think that you might have fifty legs of mutton for the same money.

Enter HOLLY, with his hat on.

HOLLY *aside.* Hang it! here's Jaggers, confound him!

JAG. *aside.* Just because I wish Holly at the bottom of the sea, he walks into my drawing room. *Aloud.* Holly, my boy, would you mind going as far as St. Paul's, to see what the exact time is?

HOLLY *sentencing himself.* Yes, I should. *Takes up paper.*

Enter Mrs. JAGGERS, who runs to her husband and throws her arms round his neck.

Mrs. J. O, you darling! It was so very kind of you. Thank you—thank you.

HOLLY *aside.* Confound it! she ought to call me her darling. *Makes signs to Mrs. J.*

JAG. *aside.* This is a trick to coax me, but it won't do. *Aloud.* I'm much obliged to you, my dear—*pushes her off*—but you can't have the bracelet for all that! Think of the price of bread, madam! Precious stones will not feed your family, madam! no, not if they contained as many carats as would fill Covent Garden.

Mrs. J. But I've got the bracelet! you dear, good fellow, I've got it.

JAG. Got it! got it! *In a terrible voice.* And who has dared, madam—who has dared, I ask, to take so great a liberty? *Looks suspiciously at Holly.*

Enter Mrs. HOLLY, who runs up to HOLLY and embraces him.

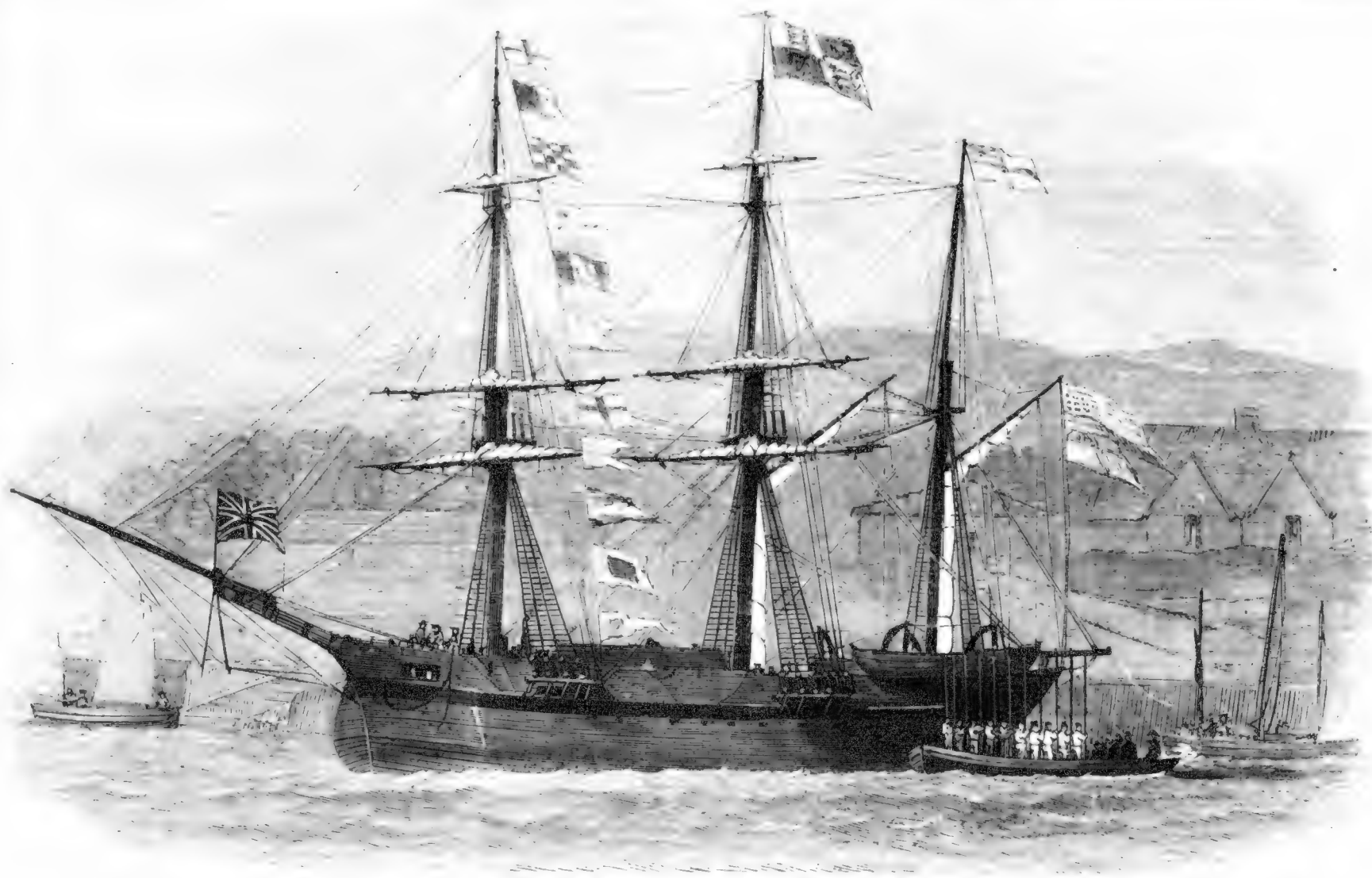
Mrs. H. O you angel! how kind, how thoughtful of you! It looks so beautiful.

HOLLY. I don't understand you; you stare me in the face, and say, "It looks so beautiful."

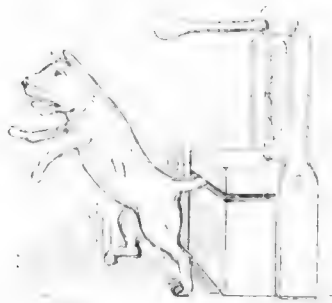
Mrs. H. I was talking, love, of the velvet dress.



THE IMPERIAL HUNT IN THE FOREST OF FONTAINBLEAU.



THE ARCTIC DISCOVERY SHIP RESOLUTE.—(SEE PAGE 431.)



1. Why is this unfortunate animal like Mr. Thackeray?



5. What popular work, besides "Jack the Giant Killer," does the above remind you of?



9. If you were to see the above at the door of a shop in Aldgate, why would you be entitled to walk off with them without paying?



13. What martyred heroine is named by the above very capital letter?



2. If you did not know this penitent brigand (who is about to end his infamous career by leaping down a volcano) to be an Italian, why would you suspect him of being an Irishman?



6. What sort of architectural edifice does the above ornament remind you of?



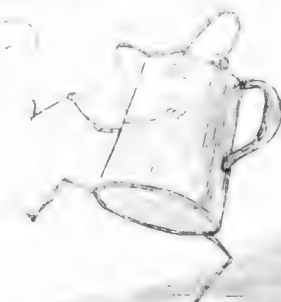
10. What eastern river does the above coloured gentleman belong to?



14. What is the difference between these two miniatures and the individual in the ticket-of-leave line, who has just robbed you of them?



3. The above is the name of a domestic animal that has evidently not had its dinner. Why?



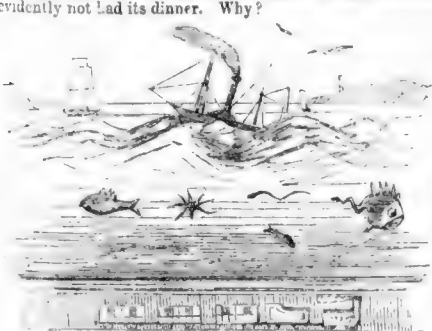
7. Why ought the above eccentric vessel to contain sherry, cobbler?



11. Why is the above divine creature in a narrow street like a note issued by the Royal British Bank?



15. What popular artist does one of these two desirable articles resemble, and which?



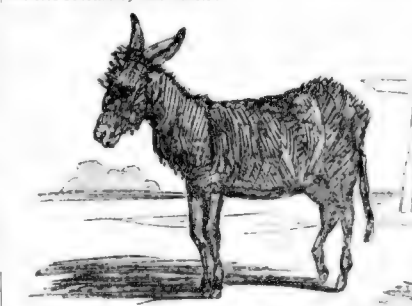
4. Why is the above tunnel (proposed to extend from France to England) like the tasteless individual who refuses to read these interesting questions?



8. The most remarkable of the above animals is monarch of all the rabbits. Why has he more reason to dread being sold in pots and tin cases than any other rabbit?



12. Why is he like the late Emperor of Russia's second brother?



16. What is the difference between him and the individual who has not been able to make out a single one of the above women's questions?

EXECUTION OF THREE MEN AT WINCHESTER.

CONFESION OF THE MURDERERS.

ON Tuesday morning, Giuseppe Lagarva, aged twenty; Giovanni Barbala, eighteen; and Matteo Pettrich, twenty-one, were hanged on the top of the county jail at Winchester. They were convicted at the recent assizes of the wilful murder of Joseph Patterson and Evan Evans, on board the barque *Globe*, in the Bosphorus. The circumstances of the murder and piracy have been detailed in this journal.

The fact that three persons were to be executed at once (happily now a rare occurrence) drew together a very large concourse of persons, not a few of whom were women. Every town and village in the county contributed to the number of spectators. Many took up their positions the previous night, and waited to see the bodies cut down. Some sailors, supposed to have come from Portsmouth, were seen in the crowd, which continued to increase even after the drop fell.

At a quarter-past eight the officials were brought into the apartment to which the prisoners had been removed. Here they were pinioned according to the method adopted at the execution of Marley. Shortly after, the bell began to toll, and the procession moved towards the place of execution, the chaplain reading the burial service from "I am the resurrection and the life;" and, not to dwell upon the terrible incidents of the execution, the unhappy men were presently turned off, but not, however, till they had been kept on the gallows for nearly a quarter of an hour.

Barbala, according to the confessions of the other prisoners, made at various times, and without complicity, was innocent; that is to say, he took no free part in the mutiny or the murder, but acted under the coercion of the others. This confession was made known to the Home Secretary, but failed to obtain the boy's reprieve. Pettrich or Petrucci (we find the names of the prisoners spelled all sorts of ways), made a most appalling confession of crime. He acknowledged to the murders on board the *Globe*, and said that he had committed three murders previously. The first was a woman of loose character whom he murdered about two years ago at Trieste; and in the same place, about the same time, he assassinated two gendarmes. To this terrible statement, he added that, when he took the life of the woman, in the paroxysm of passion he literally drank her blood. It is but justice to say that both Pettrich and Lagarva seemed extremely anxious about the fate of Barbala, and repeatedly embraced him on the scaffold.

EXECUTION AT CHESTER.

JACKSON, who was recently convicted of the murder of his two children, was executed at Chester on Saturday. He seems to have contemplated his fate with the indifference natural to criminals of his order, and we hear that at various interviews held with his friends, as little sympathy was exhibited as expected. For some days before his execution, his wife only approached him with aversion; but at her last interview with him the estrangement was removed, and she clung to her husband almost frantically.

Saturday morning was dark, cold and damp, but long before six o'clock eager spectators were assembling in front of the City Jail. The city authorities had ordered a strong barrier to be erected at the foot of the pavement along the entire length of the jail front, and at a quarter before eight o'clock the prisoner was removed from his cell to the chapel, where portions of the burial service were read by the Rev. Mr. Kilner and the Rev. Mr. Hewson. The prisoner throughout the service was deeply affected. As soon as the service was concluded, the said procession was formed to the press-room, where the culprit was pinioned in the manner employed at Marley's execution. Not a muscle did the prisoner move during the operation, and, although turnkeys and others were shedding tears around him, he paid the solest attention to the exhortations of Mr. Kilner, whose utterance was occasionally choked by his emotions. With a firm step the prisoner then ascended the drop, and Calcraft in an instant drew down the cap and adjusted the rope. When on the scaffold, the chaplain asked the prisoner whether he died confessing his sins. He said, "I do;" and when the chaplain left him, several times ejaculated, "Lord have mercy on me." A line was tied round the legs, and the belt being drawn, the drop fell, and in a second the unhappy man had ceased to exist, not a struggle being perceptible. There was an immense crowd.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MURDER.—A young man, named Thomas Aplin, was murdered and robbed on the highway, near Taunton, Somerset, on Tuesday night. He had been to Wirtcomb Christmas market, where he got change for a five pound note, which he showed to an acquaintance named Nation and others. Nation and the deceased left to go home together in the latter's dog-cart, which, however, had been turned out of the proper road, and the body was found in the cart in the course of the night. The throat had been cut, and the pockets of deceased's clothes rifled of their contents. Nation has since been arrested. His clothes were stained with blood; he had in his pockets a clasp-knife covered with blood, and four sovereigns and some coppers. He has been committed to Somerset county jail.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS FROM WOOLWICH.—On Monday night three convicts, named James Taylor, James Wright, and Joseph Wright, escaped from the Defence Hospital, having first obtained possession of the gig belonging to the commander of the vessel, Captain Warren. It is supposed that they rowed down the river in order to land at a secluded spot. The fugitives had recently arrived at Woolwich as invalids; and as all the convicts now at Woolwich are patients on board the *Defence*, they are not so strictly watched as formerly.

THE BITER BIT.—A few days ago a seaman, boarding at the Sailors' Home, was crossing Tower Hill, when two men, apparently quarrelling about the value of a watch-gard, came in his path. One of them offered £3, but the other indignantly refused his offer, saying that the chain was worth £8. The parties then departed, apparently in anger, when one of them came alongside the sailor, expatiating on the roguery of Jews, but offering the chain as a great bargain to Jack for £3. So saying, he put the chain in his hand, desiring him to inspect it, but appeared sadly disconcerted when the sailor coolly informed him that he should retain possession of it until he met a policeman. A struggle then commenced, and a third ruffian appeared. Jack dragged his assailants a considerable distance; but a policeman heaving in sight, they precipitately retreated, leaving the sailor in possession of the chain, which proved to be worth only a few shillings.

THE PALMER FAMILY AGAIN.—The case of the Prince of Wales Insurance Company versus Palmer, which came before the Master of the Rolls last week, gives prominence once more to the affairs of the Palmer family of Rugeley. Mr. Roundell Palmer made an application to the court to appoint a person to represent the estate of Walter Palmer, deceased. The bill was filed by the Insurance Company, for the purpose of being relieved from a policy on the life of Walter Palmer, to insure a sum of £13,000, for which a large premium, exceeding £1,700, was paid. Within a few days after the insurance was effected, an absolute assignment of it was executed by Walter Palmer to his brother, William Palmer. Walter Palmer died some short time afterwards, and William Palmer has since been hung for murder. The consideration of the assignment was a debt alleged to be due from Walter Palmer to William Palmer, and which was less in amount than the sums paid for the premiums. A Mr. Pratt had had possession of the policy, and it was suggested in the bill that he claimed a lien upon it, but by his answer he disclaimed any such interest, and he appeared to admit the whole case made by the bill, which was that the policy was obtained by fraud. He had given up the policy, which was now in the hands of the court. The other defendant was the Attorney-General, any property of William Palmer's at the time of his execution being vested in her Majesty. He was not in a situation to say whom they should desire to appoint. The court might, if it thought fit, appoint the widow of Walter Palmer. By her answer she disclaimed any interest. His Honour: She ought to attend here; but the difficulty is with regard to her costs. Will you indemnify her against the costs?—Mr. Palmer: We will undertake to indemnify her.—Mr. G. Hastings: An application was made to Mr. George Palmer, another brother, who is a solicitor, but he will have nothing to do with it.—Mr. R. Palmer: It was supposed when the bill was filed, that the wife of Walter Palmer had taken out letters of administration to her husband's effects, but it appears she has not done so.—His Honour: Well, you may appoint her, indemnifying her against costs.

LAW AND CRIME.

DURING the last week a session of the Central Criminal Court was held at the Old Bailey. Thither we went, and we will now proceed to record the experiences of what artists call "a fresh eye." A straggling crowd of witnesses, prosecutors, and law clerks was occasionally obstructing the outside pavement, in spite of the constant remonstrances of the police. At the end of the middle passage to the interior the grand jury were sitting, sifting the indictments, possibly with the proud consciousness that their duties had been voted superfluous and needless by judges and fellow-jurymen throughout the length and breadth of the land. We remarked a notice prohibiting fees to doorkeepers, and which might have led the unsophisticated to suppose that the admission to the British Courts of Justice at the Old Bailey was authoritatively gratuitous. Whether we found it so or not, we decline to state, but earnestly recommend any reader who may feel anxious upon the subject to endeavour to discover for himself. We passed out from the court by another door, into a lobby where barristers' clerks were conversing sympathisingly upon the rumoured death of one of their body, who had that morning been found drowned in the river somewhere about Rotherhithe. One remarked that the unfortunate deceased had left that court, the night before, intoxicated. Whereupon a bystander rejoined, "Well, I'm not surprised at that; I

should only wonder at any one who could drink hanging about this place all day and leaving it sober!" Without reference to the case of this poor victim (who, it was conjectured, had, staggering along Waterloo Bridge, been robbed and lifted over into the stream *à la mode de Paris*), we received, in the course of a day or two's experience, some cause to believe in the truth of this person's remark, which hits a blot upon our criminal system as administered at Ludgate Hill. The sessions are held once a month, lasting on each occasion only a few days. Those who are unhappy enough to have business at these sessions, are bound by their recognisances or professional duties, to attend perhaps during the whole of the sittings until their particular case be called on. The cases are so numerous, that three and sometimes four Courts sit at once. Tradesmen are drawn from their business, as jurymen or witnesses, and finding the accommodation scanty, loiter in draughty passages, or if they attempt to stand in the Courts after passing the janitors (no easy task), are remonstrated with by an usher for obstructing this pathway, or by a policeman for standing in that, until they saunter out again, and making arrangements with the constable in the case, go to the public-house opposite to enjoy the lazy man's usual solace of a glass and a pipe. Nothing engenders thirst like malaria, as the "Times" told us a few days back, and an Old Bailey crowd is peculiarly adapted to provoke the consumption of liquor. The public-house opposite does a thriving business while the Courts sit, and towards the evening jurymen grow impatient, and witnesses contradictory and restive under cross-examination. We thought that even the bar appeared less scrupulous as to the strict laws of evidence, but we can speak confidently as to only one or two instances, which we will mention more particularly. During the trial of an uncertificated attorney for receiving money under false pretences, a witness (refreshing his memory from a written document), alleged that prisoner after receiving one sum for a specified object, had received another "for the above purpose." This passed apparently unnoticed. The next witness, who had been hitherto out of Court, was called in to give his evidence *ried voce*. He spoke to the payment of the first sum, and as to the second, said that it was paid "for the above purpose." No remark was made at the time upon this singular expression occurring for the second time, but this happened about five o'clock. A short time afterwards the case broke down. Hereupon we would ask, Why are these Courts held only once a month? Why do they sit so late? Why is not every possible convenience afforded to people necessarily attending? and why are not the cases appointed so as to save the waste of public time incurred in hanging about their dismal precincts, at the beggarly allowance of three-and-sixpence per day to witnesses of all classes? Hundreds of pounds might be economised annually, and an immense advantage accorded to prosecuting and defending classes generally, by a systematisation of the criminal proceedings at the Old Bailey. Above all, the administration of public justice is at stake, if a prisoner, whether innocent or guilty, have with him or against him a number of persons, who have been loitering from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. about a dreary building, with a public-house in the immediate neighbourhood, whither they can resort and remain within call.

The first shot in the anticipated campaign against robbers and murderers has been fired by a woman, at Barnsley, Yorkshire. A Mrs. Braithwaite, who keeps a small shop there, was alarmed in the night by the ringing of a bell attached to her front door. She opened the window, and seeing four men there, asked what they wanted. One of them said to his comrades, "Two of you go round to the back door;" upon which Mrs. Braithwaite let fly with a large pistol loaded with shot, and a wounded man fell, and was borne off by his companions. It is not very creditable to the police, or other watch of the village, that three men should have been able to carry away a fourth at night-time after the explosion of a pistol. However, no great harm was done to the burglarious interest, as the man who was shot proved to be a respectable surgeon of the vicinity, who, being on friendly terms with Mrs. Braithwaite, had thought to frighten her as he was returning home late with two or three companions. Alarming a lone woman in the dead of the night with intimations of burglary and probable murder, may be excellent sport; but it does not appear advisable when the party to be operated upon has fire-arms in readiness.

Persons who wish to let or dispose of house property, may receive useful warning from one or two cases which have lately been brought forward. It seems that at certain "register offices," the client who wishes to advertise his property is required to enter his name and address at the foot of a printed form. Months probably elapse, and as no particular result occurs in consequence of the ceremony described, the customer begins to stir in the matter, and completes the business himself, perhaps forgetting the trifling incident connected with the register. Assuredly, sooner or later, will he find himself pounced upon for heavy charges by the "agent," his old friend of the register office. Remonstrance is futile; and if the client contest the claim, he will be certainly cast with costs, upon production of a certain agreement drawn with the utmost legal preciseness, guaranteeing the agent his expenses in any event, and at the foot of which the victim will recognise with much dismay his own autograph.

Our usually mild friend, the Chevalier de Chatelain, writes rather an angry letter to the "Times," upon his having been officially informed that, although a naturalised British subject, he is not to be considered as beyond the power and control of his native country until he has been denaturalised by the land of his birth. This is very hard upon one who has translated Tupper, carried off the dithyramb at Dunmow, and proved himself to the very back-bone to be so thoroughly converted to Anglicism, as the gentleman who signs himself "Le Chevalier." But he asks a legal question which we will answer for him. He demands to know "Whether he (Le Chevalier) is an English or French subject?" Under the circumstances he is both. He is a British subject while in England, having been naturalised by English legal forms. Should he return to France, he will be, while there, a French subject, not having by any act between him and his government deprived himself of his rights as a Frenchman. This is not only law, but common sense, and Le Chevalier need scarcely have asked the question.

The disgraceful conflict of jurisdiction between the Courts of Chancery and Bankruptcy is reported to be at an end. Terms have been agreed upon, and the official manager is to retain twenty thousand pounds to cover his costs and expenses. Of course, he will only receive the amount to which he is legally entitled; but think of the reflections upon the law by the wretched shareholders, who are forced to stand helplessly by and see not their subscribed-for shares, but their own private and personal capital, thus absorbed. For as they are each individually liable to the extent of their respective means, this enormous sum must come out of their individual cash-boxes. It is scarcely to be wondered at that some of them who avow the utmost readiness to subscribe a fair share towards the just debts of the bank, begin to draw long faces, and talk about selling off and leaving the country. The temptation is certainly great, even to an honest man. Humphrey Brown, Esq., of Tewkesbury, has had a sale of his household effects, and the step cannot be blamed, whether he be, as he says, an innocent party in the transaction or not. His establishment, position, and connection with the bank would have made him a conspicuous mark for repeated executions, in actions brought perhaps chiefly with a view to costs. Meanwhile, the public can only look on indignantly at the state of affairs, and long for the re-assembling of Parliament, one of the first acts of which will probably be to protect us from "conflicts of jurisdiction," and from similar schemes to that laid by the presiding spirit of the late bank:

"Such outlaws as he and his men
Shall England never see again."

THE MURDER OF A SOLDIER AT DOVER.

THOMAS MANSELL has been convicted of the murder of Alexander M'Burney, a lance corporal of the 49th Regiment, of which the prisoner was a private. The prisoner had a grievance against M'Burney, arising out of a pair of boots which the prisoner declared he had in his squad-bag when the regiment left the Crimea; though on opening the bag in England, they were gone; and he laboured under the impression that M'Burney had taken them. This grievance seemed to rankle for some time; and on the 27th of August, the regiment being then under canvas at Dover, the prisoner shot M'Burney as he was cleaning his ramrod at the door of his tent. Mansell acknowledged the crime, and sentence of death was passed upon him.

MURDER OF A CHILD BY ITS MOTHER.—Frances Wallace was tried at Maidstone for the murder of her child. The prisoner, who was a single woman, lived at Dover, and was represented to be a well-conducted young woman, most affectionate mother, keeping her little girl "as well as any tradesman's child in the town." It appeared that the prisoner had told a man named Rigg who lived near by, about the father of her child; and was afterwards in deadly fear lest he should reveal what she had told him to her sister, who lived in London. On the morning of the 20th of October, the prisoner murdered her child, almost severing its head from the body; and then went and told a neighbour what she had done. She said to the policeman who took her into custody, "O policeman, I am a hardened wretch. I have been ill some time, and thinking I could not live long, I did it because she should not be a trouble to any other people as I have been." She spoke in the most affectionate terms of the child, remarking that the night before the little thing had said to her—"If you put the sleeves of your frock into mine, and mine into yours, I shall go to Heaven." The jury acquitted the prisoner on the ground of insanity, and she was ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

MURDER AT BIRKENHEAD.—A murder was committed at Birkenhead on Tuesday morning. Two men, named Smith and Green, went to the house of Mr. Softly, publican, in Chester Street, to obtain some drink, but were refused admission, they therefore commenced breaking in the door, and Mr. Softly's servant was sent to procure the aid of a policeman. Police-officer Vaughan immediately came to the house, and, having obtained the assistance of another constable, proceeded to take the men into custody. On the way to Birkenhead, Smith drew from his pocket a large knife, and stabbed Van Han in the left side near the region of the heart. He expired in about half an hour from the effects of the wound.

A POLICEMAN MURDERED.—A man named Elias Jenkins has been arrested at Merthyr on a charge of having stabbed a policeman on the Vale of Neath Railway, named Joseph Pearce. The injured man was promptly attended by Mr. P. W. James, surgeon, who considered him in such imminent peril that a magistrate was called in to receive his statement of the occurrence; soon after he died. The prisoner was formerly a seaman, but for a long time has led an idle life, having no visible means of subsistence.

THE BOARDING-SCHOOL CASE.—On Tuesday, the Coroner for East Surrey concluded an inquest on Maria Bailey, a child whose death, as alleged, had been caused by ill-treatment and starvation at a school kept by Mrs. Meers, at Battersen. The general evidence proved that the cause of the death of the deceased was insufficient and improper food want of clothing, and neglect of cleanliness. The jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Maria Meers.

EMBEZZLEMENTS ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Snell, who was last week convicted of embezzling certain moneys the property of the Great Northern Railway Company, has been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, with hard labour.

POLICE.

HOW RAILWAY ACCIDENTS ARE GOT UP.—Henry Head, guard; George Bennett, assistant guard; Henry Mitchell, engine driver; and A. Fordyce, fireman, all in the employ of the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company, were summoned before the magistrate at Wandsworth, for letting a train of which they had charge wholly unattended. On the night of the 19th inst., Sergeant Pearce was on duty in Merton Lane, near the level crossing of the Wimbledon, Mitcham, and Croydon Branch Railway, when he saw a train come up. The train stopped near the gate on the Wimbledon side, and one of the men on the engine jumped off, and directed another man who was on the engine to take the train through the gates. Baker, the gatekeeper, then closed the gates, and the train proceeded some little distance, when it again stopped. Two other men, who appeared to be guards, then jumped from the carriages, and also the man on the engine. The four men then quitted the train, and went into Baker's house adjoining the line, followed by Baker. The sergeant then went on to the line and looked round the train, but he could see no one in charge of it. The men went into Baker's house about five minutes to twelve o'clock, and did not come out until a quarter past, and during the whole of that time the train was unattended. When they came out the four men got on to the train, and it then proceeded towards Croydon. Mr. Solomon, who attended for the prisoners, elicited in cross-examination that the train in question was the last on the line either way that night, and therefore no danger could be expected by the train standing there. The Magistrate taking this fact into consideration, fined Head, who had charge of the train, £5 or one month's imprisonment, as he was more culpable than the rest. He next fined Mitchell £3, or 21 days, and the others £2 each, or 21 days' imprisonment.

ATTEMPT TO STEAL A POLICEMAN.—On Saturday night, John Regan caused some excitement in Lincoln Court, near Dury Lane, by brandishing a knife before the shop of a fishmonger, and declaring that he would have the life of the fishmonger's journeyman, a feeble and harmless man. Two constables endeavoured to arrest him, when he made a thrust at one of them. Luckily, however, the knife, after piercing through the constable's outer coat, and a handkerchief which he had in his bosom, glanced off upon a button of his under coat. Meanwhile some of Regan's companions rushed at the policeman, and rescued the prisoner. Nevertheless he was apprehended on Monday, and Mary Harrigan is also in custody, charged with assisting his rescue.

A NOBLEMAN IN TROUBLE.—A person, described on the charge sheet as Colvill George Colvill, but who has frequently figured at the police courts as Lord Colvill, was recently convicted of smuggling a bottle of gin into Whitecross Street prison. He was fined 20s., or fourteen days' imprisonment. Prisoner said he was coming into his property soon, and could pay the fine if the magistrate would defer it for three weeks. This request was not acceded to, and Mr. Colvill was locked up.

SHOCKING AFFAIR.—Edward Deeks and Edward Goddery, both between twelve and thirteen years of age, were charged at Bow Street, on remand, with being concerned in stealing 25s., the money of the first-named prisoner's father. On the 15th inst. both lads, in company with a third of nearly the same age, were charged with the felony; but it appearing that Deeks and Goddery only were implicated, the third was allowed to go at large. Deeks admitted having concocted the robbery a week previous with his companion. The father refused to attend on the first occasion; but the Magistrate directed the parents of the prisoners to be in attendance on the remand. And now Mr. Hutton, late an inspector in the N Division, waited on the Magistrate, and informed him that Mr. Deeks had that morning hung himself in his bed-room. For some time past he was known to have been in a very desponding state. He was a builder, and resided at Ryder Terrace, City Road.

The Magistrate observed that it was a very shocking occurrence, and one that ought to have a salutary effect upon the child, who, however, did not appear to be in the slightest degree grieved at the information so suddenly afforded. He had been twice before guilty of similar practices. Both the boys, after an impressive caution, were discharged.

THE FRUIT OF FORTUNE-TELLING.—A gypsy woman named Counsell Jones, was charged at Southwark on Tuesday with obtaining money fraudulently, by pretending to tell fortunes. John Roots, a young man employed at a cheese-monger's in the London Road, Southwark, deposed, that Jones came into the shop while he and his employer's sister were in attendance, and proposed to tell their fortunes. This was on Wednesday week. The young lady called the gypsy into the parlour, where they remained closeted for some ten minutes. Jones then came out; when Mr. Roots, having changed his mind, (for he would have "nothing to do with her nonsense" at first), also crossed the gypsy's palm with a piece of silver. All that he learned, however, was, that he had a dark young woman in his mind, and that he would marry her and be comfortable. The future was not so happy for the young lady. She fell ill after the gypsy had left, became insane, and raved continually of the fortune-teller and the cards.

On Monday evening the gypsy again called, when Roots asked her into the parlour, when she showed him three letters, stating that he would have three letters like them from the country, informing him of something to his advantage. She also told him he would have money sent him by New-year's day. After that she pulled a pack of cards from her pocket, and cut them on the table. She turned up the Ace of Spades, and said there would soon be a death in the family, and that he would go a long journey into the country on New-year's day. Roots then gave her into custody. A fortune-telling book, bound in the cover of one of the Bible Societies' Bibles, was found on her, besides three letters casting nativities, and an old pack of cards. The magistrate remanded her to hear note precisely the condition of the lady said to have gone mad.

ANOTHER ALLEGED ACCOMPLICE OF REDPATH.—Thomas Hogden, a clerk in the service of Field, Son, and Wood, Redpath's stockbrokers, has been charged with being concerned with Redpath in the commission of forgery. Mr. Mowatt, the secretary of the company, found that the prisoner had been the attesting witness to a forged document, purporting to transfer £1,000 4s per cent stock of the Great Northern Railway from Redpath to Mr. Stephen George Hammond. From the nature of the document there could not, in Mr. Mowatt's idea, be the least doubt that the prisoner knew that the document was a forgery. The prisoner, in defence, said that he did not know that the document was a forgery, and that he was only the attesting witness. He was remanded.

REDPATH and KENT were again examined at the Clerkenwell Police Court on Wednesday. The evidence, which was of a formal character, presented no new features.

TESTER, PIERCE, and BURGESS, who were remanded (pro forma) till Wednesday, were on that day committed for trial. No further evidence was adduced.

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BY HENRY MAYHEW,

AUTHOR OF "LONDON LABOUR AND THE LONDON POOR."

ASSUREDLY the history and character of the Great Metropolis, in the nineteenth century, is still an unwritten book. There are many clever and learned works on London—regarding it as a vast mass of bricks and mortar—a kind of civic "natural curiosity"—but none as yet viewing it as a huge human "vivarium," wherein one learns the habits of the many "odd-fish" collected within it.

There are not a few metropolitan topographers who treat of *Old London*, discoursing, pleasantly enough, of the time when "St. Giles's" really stood "in the fields," when St. John's Wood could boast a few trees, and when bowls were played in Pall Mall; and telling us, too, how some great dead "lion" was formerly caged in this or that hot , and how Watling Street, in the time of the Romans, was the high road to the Provinces that are now reached by the North Western Railway.

Some London historians, on the other hand, are eminently learned concerning the climate and geology of the capital; whilst others, like Mr. McBlue-book, are intensely didactic and professorially prosy upon the subject of London Institutions and the London Census.

Of London Scenes, however, and London Society—of London contemplated *morally* rather than physically—as the great centre of human emotion—the scene of countless daily struggles, failures and successes, as well as of the wildest passions and the keenest misery; of London, where the very best and the very worst types of civilized society are found to prevail—with its prodigious wealth and enormous commerce—the choice learning, profound science, and high art of some of its people, existing in close companionship, as it were, with the most acute want, and ingrained vice, and brutal ignorance of others—the sweet Christian charity of many, raising palatial hospitals and asylums for the indigent and afflicted, and the bitter stony-heartedness of not a few, grinding, like the Ogre in the story, the bones of their work-people to make their bread;—these, as we have said, are phenomena hardly yet numbered among our literary records, but are matters the chronicles of which surely may be included among the "*desiderata*" of the Great Library of the British Museum.

It is the aspiration of the writer of the work here announced, that he may be able, in some measure, to supply the biblical deficiency, and to present to the public such a word-picture of the Great Metropolis as it exists at the present time, that those who are familiar with the scenes and characters described may be pleased with the book for its mere truth, while those who have never visited the places and the people may yet have some ideal sense of them, and so find a picturesque charm in the very peculiarities of the subjects themselves.

What the author formerly attempted to do for a comparatively small and obscure portion of the community—viz., the London Street Folk—he will, in his new publication, endeavour to carry out for *all* classes. With this view, THE GREAT WORLD OF LONDON will be divided into a number of subordinate metropolitan spheres, such as LEGAL LONDON, MEDICAL LONDON, RELIGIOUS LONDON, &c., &c., as detailed in the annexed epitome of the contents of the entire series. In the present work, too, the writer purposes being less minute and elaborate, so as to be able, within a reasonable compass, to deal with almost every type of Metropolitan Society; still the same mode of treatment will be pursued as in "London Labour and the London Poor"—that is to say, there will be a strict adherence to facts, and a careful exclusion of the author's individual opinion concerning the subjects touched upon; whilst, as an earnest of the truthfulness of the narratives and descriptions, Engravings, from Daguerreotypes or Photographs, of the scenes and characters described, will accompany the literature,—literature in which the reader may rest assured that no rhetorical arts will be used to give a false or exaggerated interest to the matter.

"THE GREAT WORLD OF LONDON,"

Will be divided into, and described under, the following Heads:—

LEGAL LONDON.—Courts of Law and Equity; Bankruptcy, Insolvent, Ecclesiastical, County and Police Courts; Appeals in the House of Lords; Judges, Barristers, and Magistrates—their Habits and Manners, and Average Incomes; Bedford and Russell Squares; Inns of Court; Keeping Terms; Chambers; Barristers' Clerks; Attorneys; Sharp and "Respectable" Practitioners; Chancery Lane and the Law Offices; Tricks of Legal "Gents, one, &c.;" Average Incomes; Attorneys' Clerks; Law Stationers; Sheriffs' Offices and Sponging Houses; Debtors' Prisons; Life in the Bench and Whitecross Street; Station-houses; Old Bailey Trials; Criminal Prisons and Reformatories; Prison Life; Statistics as to the Number of Individuals belonging to Legal London, and the Sum annually spent upon Law in the Metropolis.

MEDICAL LONDON.—Hospitals; Lectures and Operations; Fashionable Physicians and Apothecaries; Habits, and Manners, and Average Incomes of ditto; Medical Examinations; Dispensaries; Quacks and their Tricks; Medical Students; Life of Chemists and Chemists' Assistants; Sick Nurses; Monthly ditto; Medical Societies; Mad-Houses, and Mad-Doctors, and Keepers; Idiot Asylums, &c.; Statistics as to Average Gains of the several individuals connected with Medical London, and the Gross Sum spent annually upon Medical Advice and Medicine in London.

RELIGIOUS LONDON.—Churches and Chapels of the Metropolis; Popular Preachers; "Pet Parsons;" Poor Curates; May Meetings; Peculiar Sects—Mormons, Southcottians, Swedenborgians, &c.; Tract Societies; Income, and Expenditure, and Influence of ditto; Visiting Societies; London Missions and Scripture Readers; Charity Dinners, Soup Kitchens, and Fancy Fairs; Philanthropic Institutions, and Asylums—Deaf and Dumb, and Blind, and Orphan, &c.; Weddings, and Funerals, and Cemeteries; Parish Meetings; Select Vestries; Sons of Clergy and other Societies; with Estimate as to Number and Average Incomes of the several Individuals connected with Religion in the Metropolis.

COMMERCIAL LONDON.—Docks; Brokers, and Factors; Shipping and Custom-house Agents; Sufferance Wharves; Lloyds; Royal Exchange; Stock ditto, and Habits and Manners of Members; Banks and Clearing-Houses; Bankers and Bankers' Clerks; Money Lenders, Bill Discounters, Pawnbrokers and "Dolly Shops;" Amount of Capital, with Rate of Interest paid by various Classes; Warehouses; Merchants and Merchants' Clerks; Estimate as to Gross Annual Extent of Metropolitan Commerce; City Companies and Halls, &c.; Average Incomes of Merchants, &c.; Travellers and Commission Agents.

SHOP LONDON.—Shops, Descriptions of, and peculiar quarters for distinct Trades; Average rate of Profit of various Trades;

Tricks of Trade and Adulterations; Respectable Houses; "Pushing" Houses; Shopmen and Early-closing Associations; Statistics.

LITERARY LONDON.—Newspapers and Periodicals; Costs of Producing and Profits; Daily Journals and Journalists; Influence of the Press; Rate of Remuneration for Contributions, and Habits and Incomes of the Press Writers and Reporters, and Penny-a-Liners; Paternoster-Row on Magazine-Day; Book-sellers and Authors; "Subscribing" a Book; Advertisements and Advertising Agents; Printers and Pressmen, "Readers" and "Devils;" Newsvenders and News-boys, &c., with Statistics, &c.

THEATRICAL LONDON.—Theatres; Behind the Scenes, Green Room; Reading a Piece, Rehearsals, First Night, and Boxing Night; Actors, Scene Shifters, "Supers," Chorus, Ballet Dancers; Scene Painters, Costumiers, Property Men, and Machinists, &c.; Promenade Concerts and Masquerades; Theatrical Taverns; Salaries of Actors; Dramatists, and Prices paid for Pieces; with Statistics, &c.

FASHIONABLE LONDON.—Queen's Drawing-rooms and Levées; Balls, Almacks, Morning Fêtes, and Receptions; Rotten Row; Italian Opera; Kensington Gardens, Philharmonic Concerts; Belgravia and Tyburnia; Habits of Fashionable People; "Out of Town," &c.

POLITICAL LONDON.—Houses of Lords and Commons; Reporters' Gallery; Opening Parliament; Government Offices and Clerks; Whitebait Dinners; Political Clubs—Reform, Conservative, &c.; Electioneering Agents; Chartist Meetings; Debating Societies; Cogers' Hall; Elections and Hustings, &c.; Municipal Government; Lord Mayor, and Aldermen, and Common Council, &c.

"GENTEEL" LONDON.—Middle Class Life; ditto Parties; Suburbs of London—Clapham, Kensington, St. John's Wood, Camden Town, &c.; Domestic Meannesses and Displays; Poor Relations; Habits and Manners of "Stuck-up" People, &c.

MILITARY LONDON.—Horse Guards and Management of Army; London Barracks and Barrack Life; Officers' Messes; Promotion by Purchase and Interest; Soldiers in Park; Habits of Common Soldiers; Sweethearts of ditto; Chelsea Hospital; Hospitals for Wounded; Reviews, &c.

NAUTICAL LONDON.—East End of London; the Pool; Foreign Steamers; the Thames Above and Below Bridge; Sailors, and Sailors' Homes, and Lodging Houses, and Taverns; Emigration Agents and their Tricks; Crimps; Watermen; Penny and Twopenny Steamers; Aquatic Societies; Rowing Matches, &c.

MARKET LONDON.—Markets and Market Houses; Billingsgate—its Salesmen, and "Roughs," and Fish-houses; Green

Markets—Covent Garden and Borough, &c.; Cattle Market; Meat Markets; Leadenhall; Hay Markets; Hide ditto; Licensed Porters, and Drovers, and Salesmen, &c.; with Estimate as to the Annual Amount of Provisions, &c., sent to London, and Value of ditto.

WORKING LONDON.—Trades and Trade Societies, and Houses of Call and Benefit Clubs; Various Modes of Reducing Wages; Honourable and Dishonourable Masters; Workers in different Materials, and their Average Gains; Diseases of Trades; Average Duration of Life among Trades; Chemical Workers—as Dyers, Soap-Manufacturers, Bone-Boilers, Glue Manufacturers, &c., with Annual Income of London Workmen.

SERVING LONDON.—Different Classes of Servants, from Housekeepers to Maids of All-Work; Treatment of ditto by Mistresses; Habits and Tricks of Servants; Servants out of Place; Characters; False ditto; Servants' "Homes," and Offices for Hiring Servants; Provident Institutions for Servants, with Average Wages and Gross Annual Sum Paid in London to Domestic.

LOCOMOTIVE LONDON.—"Busses" and Bussmen; Cabs and Drivers; Coachmen and Grooms; "Glass Coaches" and "Flies;" Post-Boys and Donkey-Boys; Excursion Vans; Carmen and Porters; Railway Termini; Parcels Delivery Company, Post and Postmen, &c., with Statistics as to Sums Paid for Carriage of individuals and Goods.

STREET LONDON.—Street People—Life of, and Different Classes of, with Income of each; Description of Streets; Traffic of ditto; Streets at different Times; London Streets at Early Morning; ditto by Night; ditto in Summer; ditto in Winter, &c.; Sewers of London; Water and Gas Pipes of ditto; Lighting of ditto; Cleansing and Paving of ditto; with Gross Cost of.

FAST LONDON.—Fast Men; Casinos; Evans', Cyder Cellars; Saloons; Oyster and Supper Rooms; Dog Fights and Rat Killing; Pugilists' Taverns; Running Matches; Wrestling ditto; Gambling and "Hells;" Betting Houses; London on Derby Day; Cricketing at Lord's, &c.

POOR LONDON.—Honest Poor; Needle-women; Soldiers' Clothes Makers; Beggars and Beggars' Tricks; Beggars' Referees and Beggings Letters; "Fakements" and "Slums;" Standing "Shallow," &c.

CRIMINAL LONDON.—Thieves—Different Classes of; Mobsmen, Magmen, Burglars, Smashers, Fences; Petticoat Lane; Cant Language; Gypsies, Vagrants, &c.

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